THE

SHIPWRECK

AND

ADVENTURES

OF

MONSIEUR PIERRE VIAUD.

Frontispiece

See p. 127

J. H. Grimm del.

J. Collyer fc.

THE SHIPWRECK AND ADVENTURES OF

MONSIEUR PIERRE VIAUD,

A Native of BOURDEAUX, and Captain of a Ship.

Tranſlated from the FRENCH,

By MRS. GRIFFITH.

Per varios caſus, per tot diſcrimina rerum. Virg.

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THE

FRENCH EDITOR's

PREFACE.

THE Adventures of Monſieur Viaud muſt intereſt every ſenſible and humane mind; the reader muſt be aſtoniſhed at the ſhocking miſeries he ſuſtained, for the ſpace of eighty-one days, from the 16th of February, 1766, to the 8th of May, following. One can hardly think it poſſible for a man to have exiſted ſo long, under ſuch horrid circumſtances, and muſt be tempted almoſt to ſay that the real truth of the facts is not veriſimilar.

But every article in this relation is ſufficiently atteſted; Monſieur Viaud is alive, in perfect health, and much eſteemed by all who know him. His good character, with his knowledge in maritime affairs, have obtained him the perfect confidence of the moſt eminent merchants. He has publiſhed theſe Adventures, has ſuffered his name to be put to them; and the manuſcript is intirely in his own hand, except a few alterations I have taken the liberty of making, in ſome of his words and expreſſions, in compliance with certain difficult readers, whom the ſimple, and ſometimes coarſe ſtile of a mariner, might perhaps have offended.

But I have carefully preſerved all his ideas, his reflections, and his manner of expreſſing them. I have preferred, to a more critical correction, that ſailorly *roughneſs, if I may ha-*

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zard the phraſe, which is not, however, without its merit, and which carries an air of ſincerity and frankneſs in it, that muſt ever be liſtened to with pleaſure.

Let us leave elegance and delicacy of ſtile to the writers of Romances, who have much need of ſome ſuch ornaments to make amends to their readers for the other deficiencies of their compoſitions. Without ſome ſuperficial embelliſhments of this kind, what effect could the improbable and ill contrived adventures of their imaginary heroes ever produce? Boys and girls may be captivated with ſuch ſort of fables, before their ſenſe or taſte are formed; but men and women ſcorn to throw away their time on ſuch ſtudies.

The misfortunes of Monſieur Viaud have no occaſion for ſuch extrinſic recommendations; but you are not to

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expect the hiſtory of his life, in theſe pages; they contain only an account of his ſhipwreck, and the perils, wants, and miſeries which were the conſequence of it.

Monſieur Viaud is a ſea-captain, and has been acknowledged in that rank, at the Admiralty-Office of Marennes, in the month of October, 1761.

PRE-

PREFACE,

By the TRANSLATOR.

THE work here offered to the public is certainly the moſt incredible ſtory that ever was authenticated; and yet, that the facts are undoubtedly true every intelligent reader muſt be ſufficiently aſſured, on the peruſal of the whole; for, independent of the opinion which one muſt be led to conceive of the Writer's veracity, from the ingenuouſneſs of his ſtile, there are concurrent and corroborating circumſtances enough, which the Author had no manner of power over, to evince the truth of his narrative.

No book can be worth reading that does not afford ſome ſubject matter for reflection; and, I think, I may venture to ſay, that the following pages muſt neceſſarily inſpire the moſt timid and deſponding mind, with a thorough reliance

reliance upon Providence, from the almoſt viſible interpoſition of its divine care in the preſervation of theſe three perſons lives; while their amazing deliverance amounts almoſt to a proof, that patience, reſolution, and perſeverance, are a match for difficulty and danger, and are ſometimes able to combat death itſelf.

The Original of this Work ran through ſeveral editions in France, where it was univerſally received, not as a romance, but as a ſeries of ſurpriſing, intereſting, and extraordinary facts, and was bought up with ſo much avidity, that the gentleman who was ſo obliging to lend the book to me, could not procure another for himſelf.

There appear to be ſome miſtakes in the Original, with regard to the rank or ſtation of Monſieur Viaud. He ſpeaks of himſelf as ſetting out a firſt mate only.—He is ſtiled, in the Certificate, a Sea captain, and alſo an officer

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in the Blues; and, in the Editor's Preface, he is ſaid to have been acknowledged or enrolled as a Sea-captain, by the board of admiralty at Marennes, in France.

Now how this ſame Captain could belong both to the ſea and land ſervice, or be an officer in the navy, and a mate of a trading veſſel, at the ſame time, I leave to thoſe who are verſed in the French military and marine to reconcile; and, as to Monſieur Viaud's own expreſſion, where he calls himſelf *Capitaine en ſecond*, which I have taken the liberty to tranſlate into *Firſt Mate*, perhaps it may ſignify a ſuperior rank in the French navy, tho' we have no ſuch diſtinction in ours. But this being a matter relative merely to Monſieur Viaud himſelf, and having nothing to do with the circumſtances of his ſtory, is of no manner of conſequence, whether it be cleared up or no.

I have uſed the ſame freedom with this Work, as with my former tranſ-

lations, of throwing in a few reflections, which naturally occurred in ſome paſſages of the narrative.—This ſerves to relieve the dulneſs of the taſk—but, at the ſame time, I have endeavoured to keep as cloſe to the ſimplicity and frankneſs of the Author's ſtile, as the difference of our languages would permit.

If the recital of Monſieur Viaud's Adventures meets with as favourable a reception in this country, as he did himſelf, from our countrymen in the New World, it will afford me the higheſt pleaſure to have introduced him in an Engliſh dreſs to the Public, to whom I have the honour to be,

A much obliged,

and moſt obedient ſervant,

The TRANSLATOR.

THE

ADVENTURES

OF

M. PIERRE VIAND.

YOU have ſuffered much anxiety about me, my dear friend, of late. You concluded, as well as my whole family, that I had periſhed in my laſt voyage; and my not having written to any of my friends, muſt have confirmed you in this opinion.

My letter, you ſay, has wiped away thoſe tears that the apprehenſion of my loſs had cauſed to flow. The

concern of my friends flatters and ſoftens me; it ſerves to conſole me for my miſeries paſt, and I rejoice in the miraculous preſervation of my life, for the ſole ſatisfaction of being beloved.

You complain that I have barely informed you of my ſhipwreck, without acquainting you with any of the particulars of it; and having firſt had your mind rendered eaſy with regard to my life and health, you deſire now a more circumſtantial detail of my unhappy adventures.

I can refuſe you nothing; but it is a taſk that friendſhip alone could urge me to, as even the recollection of ſufferings, like mine, muſt ever be attended with pain; I cannot reflect on the miſeries I have paſſed through, without the ſevereſt ſhock. I am myſelf equally aſtoniſhed, with the reſt of the world, how it was poſſible for me

me to have ſurvived thoſe wants, thoſe dangers, and thoſe difficulties which I am going to relate; convinced that nothing parallel has ever been ſuſtained before. Many of them will excite the compaſſion of ſo humane an heart as yours, and others will ſtrike your mind with horror. You will ſee to what an exceſs of deſpair my ſufferings had reduced me; and will not be ſurpriſed, therefore, that they had exhauſted my ſtrength, weakened my conſtitution, and that a ſituation and circumſtances ſo forlorn as mine, ſhould have ſometimes impaired my reaſon.

You are not to look for order or method in my ſtory. I have loſt moſt of the dates: for how could they have engaged my attention, while I was labouring under the preſſure of ſuch complicated ills! Every ſucceeding day ſtill added to my ſufferings, and the

preſent diſtreſs affected me too ſtrongly to afford me thought ſufficient to reflect upon the miſeries of the preceding. During the ſpace of two tedious months, my oppreſſed ſoul was incapable of receiving any other idea but that of the utmoſt ſorrow; its whole faculties were ſuſpended by the delirium and tranſports of deſpair; ſo that the æras of events have been totally effaced from my memory, and I can recollect but little more, at preſent, than that I have been miſerable.

I ſhall now relate the circumſtances of my misfortunes, juſt as they happened, without ornament or art; they need none of theſe heightenings to intereſt the feelings of my friend: I am but little uſed to writing; you muſt not, therefore, expect to meet with any manner of elegance in my ſtile, in which you will find nothing but the

frank

frank language of a ſailor, which, I hope, will be accepted as an apology for its incorrectneſs.

When I ſailed from Bourdeaux, in the month of February 1765, aboard the good ſhip *L'Aimable Suzette*, commanded by Monſieur St. Cric, under whom I ſerved as mate, I had but little apprehenſions of the misfortunes and diſaſters that fate had prepared to meet me in the New World; my voyage was proſperous, and I arrived at St. Domingo, without being interrupted by the leaſt diſagreeable or untoward accident.

I ſhall not relate any particulars of myſelf during my abode in that iſland, the buſineſs of commerce having occupied my whole attention, while I ſtaid there. I then prepared to return to France; and the day was fixed, when I happened unfortu-

nately to fall ſick, about a week before we were to ſet ſail.

I was much afflicted at the thought of being left behind; but, imputing my illneſs merely to the climate, I perſuaded myſelf that my health would return, on my quitting the iſland. Upon this preſumption I embarked with my friends, but did not receive the relief I had hoped for, as the air of the ſea, and the motion of the veſſel, increaſed my diſorder ſo much, that the captain aſſured me I could not purſue the voyage without the manifeſt peril of my life; of which the great weakneſs I became ſoon ſenſible of, helped to convince me. Upon which I conſented to be put any-where on ſhore; but, as they could not turn back again to St. Domingo, they landed me at the kay of St. Louis, a ſmall iſland in view of

it, ſometime in the month of November. This accident was the ſource of all my misfortunes.

Some days of reſt at St. Louis, with the kind attention of Monſieur Deſclau, an inhabitant of that place, who had given me an apartment in his houſe, ſoon reſtored me to my health again. I waited with impatience for ſome opportunity of returning to Europe, but there did not one occur, while I remained there.

A long abſence from my native country, I knew, muſt be very prejudicial to my affairs; which reflection began ſoon to render me melancholy, and unhappy. My kind hoſt as quickly perceived it, and the friendſhip with which he had treated me, during my illneſs, had inſpired me with ſo lively a gratitude, and tender eſteem for him, that I could not conceal the

cauſe of my uneaſineſs from him. He intereſted himſelf in my anxiety, and ſaid every thing in his power to comfort me.

One day he took me aſide, and addreſſed me in the following manner: "I have reflected (ſaid he) a good deal "upon your preſent ſituation. The "fear of continuing too long without "employment, is the principal thing "that diſtreſſes your mind, for the "preſent; and the hope of getting "again into buſineſs, makes you wiſh "to be able to get back to France, as "ſoon as may be. But no opportunity "has yet offered for that purpoſe; and, "if you will take my advice, you "will trouble yourſelf no farther "about that ſcheme, but try your for-"tune on your own fund, and I dare "ſay you will be able to treble it. "I purpoſe ſoon to trade to Louiſiana, "with certain commodities that I

"know

" know will produce a good profit
" there, and ſhall bring back ſuch
" goods in exchange, as will here
" yield me an advantageous return.
" I am perfectly well acquainted with
" the nature of this traffic, as I have
" made ſeveral beneficial trips there,
" already; therefore, embark yourſelf
" and ſubſtance with me, and I doubt
" not but you will, one day, thank me
" for the lucky advice I now give
" you."

In the circumſtances I then was, I had no alternative to chuſe. The propoſal of M. Deſclau I knew to be dictated by friendſhip, and I did not heſitate a moment about the acceptance of it; ſo that we immediately entered into partnerſhip together, in proportion to our reſpective funds. He laid in the proper merchandiſes for us both, and ſerved me on that occaſion with the warmeſt zeal, and moſt exact probity.

We hired a brigantine, called the Tyger, commanded by Monſieur La Couture, and the ſhip was freighted with all poſſible diſpatch. On the ſecond of January 1766, we embarked, ſixteen in number, namely, the captain, his wife, their ſon, his mate, nine ſailors, Monſieur Deſclau, a negroe, that I had purchaſed as a ſlave, and myſelf.

We ſet ſail from the road of St. Louis, ſteering towards the bay of Jeremiah, a little port that lies north of cape Dame Marie; where we ſtaid twenty-four hours. From thence we directed our courſe towards Little Goave; but this ſecond trip was not as happy as the former. We ſuſtained an adverſe wind, for twelve hours, that would have infallibly wrecked us on the Cayes-Mittes ‡, if the violence of

‡ Little iſlands on the weſt of the Spaniſh Iſle. They make part of the Antilles, or Carribee Iſlands.

the

the ſtorm, which abated a little, had not ſuffered us to make uſe of our ſails to tack about, and get clear of that coaſt.

Leſs obſtinacy, and more knowledge, on the part of our commander, would have prevented all this danger. I perceived, from this inſtance, that he was but a poor mariner, and foreſaw that our voyage would not terminate without ſome miſhap or other, if the ſhip was left intirely to his conduct; therefore I reſolved to attend cloſely to all his motions, to prevent, as far as poſſible, the perils to which his wilfulneſs and ignorance were likely to expoſe us.

Our buſineſs obliged us to remain three days at Little Goave, and we then ſet ſail again for Louiſiana; but the winds continued ſtill adverſe, during our whole courſe. On the 26th of January we had a view of the

the Iſle of Pines, toward the weſt of Cuba, which our captain affirmed to be the cape of St. Anthony. I took the elevation, and ſoon perceived that he was miſtaken; but I tried in vain to convince him of his error; for he ſtill continued obſtinate, and purſued his courſe without any manner of precaution, 'till he had drove us among the rocks, where we were hemmed in, when I perceived our ſituation in the middle of the night, by the light of the moon.

I did not waſte time in reproaching his wilfulneſs; he began then to find how much in the wrong he had been not to have liſtened to me before; and fear, having ſilenced his ſelf-ſufficience, conſtrained him to acknowledge it. The danger preſſed; I ſupplied the office of the mate, who happened to be ill, and confined to his bed: I made them tack about, and

ſo

ſo performed the only operation that could ſave us from deſtruction. This ſucceeded, and we got clear; but, after having been extricated from this peril, we ſoon found ourſelves expoſed to a number of others.

Our veſſel, from the violent working of the ſea, began to ſpring a leak, in ſeveral places, the crew grew impatient, and called on me to take the command of the ſhip; but as I had only a ſpeculative knowledge of thoſe coaſts, which I had never viſited before, I was conſcious how imperfectly mere theory can ſupply the deficiency of practice; and in conſideration, alſo, of the mortification that the captain muſt have ſuffered upon this occaſion, I thought proper to leave him the conduct of his own veſſel; and contented myſelf with watching all his manœuvres, as well for my own ſafety, as to quiet the minds of the whole

whole crew, who had now loſt all manner of confidence in him.

At length we doubled the cape of St. Anthony; but new guſts of wind aſſailed us again, and opened ſuch large paſſages for the water, that it was as much as the working of our two pumps, without intermiſſion, could do to prevent our ſinking. The wind continued contrary ſtill, the ſea grew boiſterous, and threatened us with a violent ſtorm. We were not in a condition to ride it out, the terror became general on board, as no one favourable ſign appeared in our lamentable ſituation, to reſt a hope upon.

In theſe ſhocking circumſtances, on the tenth of February, as well as I can now recollect, about ſeven in the evening, we fell in with a Spaniſh frigate coming from the Havannah, and carrying the governor and commiſſioned officers

to

to take poſſeſſion of the Miſſiſippi. They hailed us to join company, which we agreed to with joy ; for it had been the very requeſt we ſhould have made to them, if they had not prevented us.

Nothing can be an higher conſolation to ſailors, in the midſt of dangerous and fatiguing voyages, than to be joined by ſome other veſſel bound to hold the ſame courſe. Not that they can be able to afford each other the leaſt manner of aſſiſtance, in the violence of a tempeſt, where each muſt be too much occupied about their own ſafety to attend to the relief of the other ; but in all circumſtances of danger, the peril appears to be leſſened, by the greater number it is divided among.

We did not keep company long with the frigate ; we loſt her in the night ; they could uſe their ſmall ſails, which we durſt not venture.

In

In the morning we miſſed the veſſel, but found that our own had ſprung a new leak; which threw us into the utmoſt conſternation. The whole crew began to turn their eyes upon me, and I immediately adviſed the lightening the ſhip. This muſt be always a ſad neceſſity to the merchants on board, in caſes of ſuch diſtreſs, who are often obliged to throw goods into the ſea, with their own hands, that they had purchaſed with induſtry and labour; and on the return of which they had, perhaps, made ſpeculations that might have doubled their profits. But in ſuch a ſituation, the preſervation of one's life is the firſt conſideration, one attends to that alone, and forgets every other.

The brig was diſcharged of all the heavy merchandize, in a few minutes; and I got large lading pails framed of the barrel-ſtaves, in which our

our merchandizes had been packed up, in order to aſſiſt the pump, to keep the ſhip from ſinking. But all in vain. The water forced itſelf thro' the chinks of the veſſel, more and more, and the ſtrength of our hands on board became leſs and leſs; ſo that, finding it impoſſible to keep the ſea for any length of time, we took the reſolution to ſtand in for the Mobille, which was the only port that the wind would then ſuffer us to fleer to, and which was alſo the neareſt harbour we could make.

We then began to run for the Mobille, but fate oppoſed our gaining that port; the wind that had been favourable to us at firſt, ſhifted againſt us in about two hours, which obliged us to forego our purpoſe; and we made ſeveral attempts then to reach Paſſacole, which was rather more diſtant from us than the other: but that hope failed us

alſo, the winds continuing ſtill to oppoſe every endeavour we made; ſo that we were left without reſource, in the midſt of an enraged ocean, againſt which we combated at unequal odds, deprived of all proſpect of reaching any haven at all, expecting every moment the deep to open its waves, and ſwallow us up in its boſom.

At length finding it utterly impoſſible to ſave either our ſhip or effects, the preſervation even of our lives becoming every moment more difficult to us, we now began to apply our every thought and deed to that ſingle conſideration, and agreed to run the veſſel aground at the Apalaches, but were not able to achieve even this deſperate adventure, and continued ſtill the cruel ſport of waves and wind, in a ſtate between life and death, ſighing over our misfortunes, certain of our deſtruction, and yet making indefatigable

gable efforts to extricate ourſelves from the perils that ſurrounded us.

Such was our ſituation, from the 12th to the 16th of February, when, in the evening, about ſeven o' clock, we found ourſelves ſtriking againſt a chain of rocks, above two leagues from land; and the ſhocks were ſo violent that they opened the ſtern of the ſhip, in which condition we remained for half an hour, under the moſt inexpreſſible terror and alarms, till the force of repeated ſurges drove us, at length, over the rocks, and ſet us afloat again, without our rudder, at the mercy of the waves that aſſailed us without, and thoſe that forced their way into the veſſel, which increaſed every moment.

Even the little hope that we had till then preſerved, failed us all at once — on the inſtant, the ſhip reſounded with the lamentable exclama-

tions of the mariners, who interchanged their laſt adieus, prepared for death, implored the mercy of their Creator, addreſſed their fervent prayers to Heaven, interrupted ſometimes by vows, in the midſt of a ſhocking certainty of never being in a capacity of accompliſhing them.

What a ſpectacle, my dear friend, was here! One muſt have been a witneſs of it to form an adequate idea of our diſtreſs; and that which I am taking ſo much pains to trace out to you, falls infinitely ſhort of the reality.

I equally ſhared the terrors of the crew, and though my deſpair might have been leſs apparent, I dare ſay that it was not leſs violent than theirs. The extremity of the misfortune, with the certainty of its being inevitable, ſerved to ſupply me with a ſort of ſeeming firmneſs; I ſubmitted to the fate that attended me, when it was beyond

yond my power to avoid it; I reſigned my life to the Being who had lent it, and preſerved preſence of mind enough to look upon the laſt moment with calmneſs, and to be ſtill active in my endeavours to retard it.

This viſible ſteadineſs and reſolution happily impoſed ſo far upon the whole crew, that it inſpired them, even in the inſtant of deſtruction, with ſuch a confidence in me, that rendered them attentive and obedient to all my directions. The wind drove us toward the land, while I continued to ſteer by the ſhift of our foremaſt ſail, for want of a rudder, when, by an unexpected miracle, and which we had not even preſumed to hope, we arrived, that very night, about nine o' clock, on the eaſt of the iſland, and within a muſket-ſhot of the ſhore.

The agitation of the ſea would not permit our reaching it, and we pre-

pared to cut up our maſts, and bind them together with the cordage, ſo as to ſerve us for a float to carry us to land; but while we were at this work, the violence of the wind, and the force of the waves overſet the veſſel on its larboard-ſide, which unforeſeen motion had like to have been fatal to us all, by caſting us into the ſea; however, moſt of us had the fortune to eſcape this ſhock, and the few who were thrown out, were lucky enough to recover the ſhip again, by the aſſiſtance we gave them.

The moon, which, 'till this moment, had lent us a feeble light, interrupted only now and then by the intervention of the clouds, now left us ſuddenly in the dark, and in ſuch circumſtances, it was impoſſible for us to think of reaching land; ſo that it was reſolved to paſs the night on the outſide of the veſſel.

What

What an age of night it was! A deluge of rain fell on us, all the while, the ſtore-houſe of the waters ſeemed to have been broke open, the waves riſing every inſtant covered our bark, and rolled their mountains o'er our heads; the thunder roared through the air, and the quick intervals of lightning only ſerved to open to us the horrid proſpect of a boundleſs horizon, and a devouring ſea, ready to ſwallow us up, every moment, which was as quick ſucceeded by the moſt diſmal darkneſs.

In ſuch a ſituation, ſtretched along on the outſide of the hulk, faſtening ourſelves to every thing we could lay hold of, drenched through with rain, transfixed with cold, ſpent with the conſtant efforts we were obliged to exert againſt the fury of the waves, which endeavoured to waſh us off from our hold, we at length per-

ceived the morning's dawn, only to afford us a clearer view of the dangers we had paſſed, and thoſe we had yet to encounter.

This proſpect of our ſituation appeared ſtill more tremendous; we perceived, indeed, that we were not far from land, but we ſaw that it was impoſſible for us to reach it. The raging of the ſea would have daunted the ſtouteſt and moſt expert ſwimmers; for the waves rolled with ſuch fury, that whoever had delivered himſelf over to them, muſt have run the riſk of being launched back again into the main ocean, or daſhed to pieces againſt the ſhip, or the ſhore.

At this ſight and reflection the whole crew was ſeized with the extremity of deſpair, their groans and exclamations redoubled, and were repeated with ſuch ſtrength and fervency, that they were to be heard amidſt the raging of the

the winds, the roaring of the thunder, and the dashing of the waves, which, all joined together, augmented the horror of the sound.

Several hours passed thus, without any change in our dismal situation, when one of the sailors, a Dutchman, and who had been all that day the loudest in his plaints and cries, and who had, from the first appearance of danger, shewn himself the most faint-hearted of the crew, ceased his lamentations, on the sudden; and, after keeping silence for some minutes, raised up his head and voice with an extraordinary emotion, "What are we waiting "for? (cried he out, with the resolution "of despair.) Death surrounds us on "all sides:—he is just raising his arm "against us; let us anticipate him, "and hasten the blow he is so slow to "strike:—let us meet him in the deep; "perhaps if we face him, he may fly

"from

" from us ; the land is in view ; it may
" not be utterly impoſſible to reach it.
" I'll make the attempt, and if I fail,
" I but caſt away a few hours of my
" life, and cut off as many from my
" ſufferings."

At theſe words he plunged into the ſea, and many others, animated by his example, would have followed him, if I had not with the utmoſt difficulty, reſtrained them. I pointed to their comrade rolling about in the waves, combating in vain againſt them, hurried forward now almoſt to touch the ſhore, then waſhed back into the deep; diſappearing for ſome minutes, and appearing again only to be ſeen daſhed againſt the rocks. This ſhocking object ſtruck them with ſo much horror, that it abated the raſhneſs of their attempt to follow him.

The day was now near cloſing, we reflected with terror on the laſt night, and trembled

trembled before hand at that which was to come. The maſts and cordage we had ſo happily collected together for a raft, the day before, was carried off by the waves, and deprived us of the hope of ſaving ourſelves, even by ſo poor a ſhift as this. We had a wretched boat, indeed, but in no ſort of condition to weather even the ſhort paſſage that appeared to lye between us and the land. We had ſeveral times examined it, with this view, and had as often condemned it, as unfit for ſervice.

However, three of our ſailors, either more brave or deſperate than the reſt, reſolved to take their chance in this rotten ſieve, together. They launched it privately into the ſea, without communicating their deſign to any one elſe of the crew, and the firſt knowledge we had of it, was from ſeeing them, at ſome diſtance from us, in ſuch a ſituation

tuation as made us give them over for loſt. We were witneſſes, for ſome time, of their ſtruggles, of the pains they laboured with, and the frequent riſks they ran of being ſwallowed up by the waves, till at laſt we ſaw them, contrary to all hope and probability, arrive ſafe on ſhore.

How we envied their good fortune! We then, all of us, regretted that we had not made the ſame deſperate experiment, and each of us reproached ourſelves for not having foreſeen their deſign. If ever the beholding an happy perſon was ungrateful to the miſerable, it was ſo then. The ſigns they made to us, with their extravagant emotions of joy, were but aggravations ofour misfortune.

Such a ſentiment, I doubt not, muſt appear horrible to you, as it really ſeems to ſhock humanity; yet this deteſtable ſenſation is, nevertheleſs, among the

the ſeeds of nature. It diſgraces it, I muſt confeſs; but it is certainly true, notwithſtanding. And let thoſe who condemn the principle, refrain from reflecting on us as monſters, 'till they may be unfortunately placed themſelves in ſuch a ſituation, as may give them a right to judge of our feelings on that occaſion.

Night now deprived us of the ſight of our happy comrades, and being conſtrained to remain ſtill in the ſame ſituation, the compariſon between their fate and ours, but augmented our miſery; for our ſufferings ſeemed to increaſe, as divided among a leſſer number. This night was even more terrible to us, than the former; the fatigue was the ſame, and the exhauſted ſtate we had been reduced to, by our paſt labour, left us hardly power to ſuſtain the preſent.

Ever

Ever ſince our veſſel had been overſet, we had not been able to get at the inſide of her; for we dare not venture to open any part of her deck, for fear of expoſing a new paſſage to the waves, to ruſh in and burſt her aſunder, ſo as as to deprive us even of that little ſtay from deſtruction. We remained, conſequently, all this while, without meat or drink to recruit our ſtrength, or ſupport our ſpirits; and without ſleep, alſo, to forget our miſeries, for the ſhorteſt moment. Fate ſeemed to have emptied its quiver of the ſharpeſt arrows againſt us, and never had death appeared with ſo horrid an aſpect to wretches, before.

The veſſel being ſtranded among a parcel of rocks, ſome fathoms under water, was daſhed againſt them all the while by the force of the waves, ſo violently, that we felt her whole frame ſhaken ſo ſenſibly, that we expected

every minute to have her open and ſeparate, plank by plank, and reduce us to the neceſſity of the ſame experiment, that our firſt adventurer had ſo unſucceſsfully attempted, before.

The next morning, the 18th of February, we beheld the ſun riſe, which was a ſight we had abſolutely deſpaired of, when we ſaw it ſetting, and when death, by putting an end to our calamities, would certainly have been a bleſſing. But the care of life is the ſtrongeſt paſſion in the human breaſt; it continues with us to the laſt moment of exiſtence; the miſeries one feels may weaken, perhaps, but rarely extinguiſh it.

Our firſt emotion, upon finding ourſelves ſtill clinging faſt to the ſide of our veſſel, was to offer up our thankſgivings to Heaven, for having ſtill preſerved us alive, even in ſuch a deplorable ſituation, and to raiſe up

our

our ſuppliant hands in petition to Providence to complete its miracle, by affording us ſome unforeſeen means of eſcaping to the ſhore.

There never was, ſure, a more fervent prayer. Heaven, at length, ſeemed to look down with compaſſion, on our miſeries and danger. The wind began to abate, and the various agitation of the ſea ſubſided a little, but only to preſent another object of commiſeration and anxiety to our view, of the ſame kind, but not ſo great a one as that on the day before.

One of our ſailors, a remarkable good ſwimmer, having for ſome time contemplated the diſtance to the ſhore, at length reſolved with himſelf to attempt the paſſage. "I will try to rejoin "my friends on the other ſide (ſaid he), "and we will endeavour to caulk "and ſtaunch the boat, and perhaps "we may be happy enough to render

"it

" it ſufficiently capable of taking as
" many trips backward and forward
" as may ſerve to land the remainder
" of us upon terra firma, at laſt.

" This, at leaſt, is the only reſource
" that misfortune has left in our
" power to make trial of, and it
" affords no time for heſitation. Our
" ſtrength is failing us every mo-
" ment; let us not wait till it is quite
" exhauſted, but make one effort more
" with what remains, to extricate our-
" ſelves from ſo horrid and forlorn a
" ſituation."

We applauded his propoſal, and encouraged him as much as was in our power to the putting his deſign in execution, as the only ſhift that was left us to make experiment of, for our lives. We gave him all our handkerchiefs, and what line we could get at, to ſerve inſtead of oakum, towards refitting the

boat, which he faſtened about his waiſt, and inſtantly plunged into the ſea.

We ſaw him ſeveral times on the point of periſhing; our anxious eyes watched narrowly for him; he was our laſt reſource, our ſole deliverer; we ſhared the riſks he ran, our fate depended on his; we encouraged him by our voice and geſture; we laboured, I may ſay, along with him; we ſtruggled with every obſtacle that oppoſed him; our imaginations, our ardent ſupplications for his delivery, tranſported us into his place; we felt as he did, deſponded at his difficulties, and triumphed at his ſucceſſes

In fine, after having an hundred times ſuſtained alternate hopes and fears, we had the extaſy, at length, to ſee him reach the ſhore, after infinite labours and dangers. We fell immediately on our knees to thank Heaven for

for his eſcape, and warm beams of joy and hope enlivened and fortified our hearts.

It was now about ſeven o' clock, in the morning; we waited impatiently the moment of our deliverance; we never turned our eyes an inſtant from the coaſt; we perceived the four ſailors all buſy about the boat, and we ſeconded their labours by our prayers. However, they ſeemed to proceed but ſlowly in their work, and we trembled often with fear, leſt their pains might be ineffectual.

At length, about three o' clock in the afternoon, their operations ceaſed, and we ſaw the boat launched into the ſea. It approached our veſſel. How is it poſſible to deſcribe the tranſport of our crew? It was expreſſed by ſhrieks, by moſt delicious tears, and mutual embraces, felicitating one another.

This extaſy, this ſympathy, was quickly over, and took another turn when it came to the point of embarking. The boat was but ſmall; it could not contain above a third part of our number; we could not attempt to embark all at once, without ſinking it. Every one was ſenſible of the difficulty, but no one would conſent to wait for a ſecond paſſage; the fear of ſome accident happening to prevent a return, and the terror of lying another night expoſed on the hulk, made every one obſtinate for being taken in, the firſt.

Thoſe who had brought the boat to us called out to me, inſiſting that I ſhould take advantage of this firſt opportunity, as they feared it would not be in their power to make two returns more; which expreſſion being heard by the reſt, excited new outcries, and deſperate

deſperate reſolves in each, to ruſh into the ſkiff, all at once.

I raiſed my voice above the reſt, and intreated ſilence for a moment. "Your "clamours, your violences (ſaid I) "but hurt yourſelves, and retard your "own ſafety. We are all loſt, if you "perſiſt in going all together. Attend "to reaſon, obey her dictates, and hope. "We are equally involved in the ſame "perils; preferences would be unjuſt "in ſuch circumſtances, misfortune "has aboliſhed all diſtinction; let us "then determine the firſt paſſengers by "lot; let us ſubmit our fate to this im-"partial deciſion; and, to convince "thoſe who may be left behind, that "hope remains ſtill with me, I will ſtay "with them myſelf, and promiſe to "be the laſt perſon that ſhall quit the "veſſel."

This reſolution ſurpriſed and ſilenced them; they conſented to the pro-

poſition, and one of the ſailors happening to have a parcel of cards in his pocket, they were made uſe of to determine the chances. Of the eleven of us that were ſticking to the veſſel, four were taken in, and were delivered ſafe on land by the other four, who had navigated the boat, and who returned immediately to carry away its other complement of four more.

While they were coming toward us, I happened to perceive the ſtern of our veſſel ſo looſened by the ſhock of the waves, that, by the help of Monſieur Deſclau and my negroe, I ſeparated it entirely. This wreck appeared to me as good as a canoe, to carry us aſhore; Monſieur Deſclau being of the ſame opinion, we ventured upon it directly, accompanied by the negroe, when the other four took boat, and happily arrived at the ſame point of land, a ſhort time after them.

The

The inxpreſſible tranſport we were ſenſible of, upon being thus far ſafely delivered, can only be imagined, as well as the grateful and fervent devotion with which we offered up our loudeſt hymns to the Creator, with the happineſs we felt in repoſing our harraſſed limbs on a firm ſpot, without apprehending its failing under us, every moment!

The oyſters that we happily found on the coaſt furniſhed us with a truly delicious repaſt; the total privation of food we had ſuſtained for ſo long before, gave them a peculiar reliſh. We rejoiced in our preſent ſituation, and paſſed a peaceable night in a profound ſleep, uninterrupted by diſagreeable ideas about our further deliverance, which ſerved to recruit our ſtrength and ſpirits. The next day we awoke alſo with the ſame ſatis-

faction; but it was not of a long continuance.

Our mate had fallen ſick, a few days after we had ſet ſail, and the fatigue of the voyage, together with the conſtant alarms and terrors we had ſo long endured, had ſo much increaſed his illneſs, that it was with extreme difficulty he could quit his bed, when the veſſel ſtruck aground; and I am ſtill more aſtoniſhed how he was able to get upon the outſide of the ſhip, when ſhe overſet.

The length of time we lay in this ſad ſituation, had almoſt exhauſted his ſtrength; and yet, when the lots were drawn, he happened to be one of the firſt paſſengers, and contrived to get into the boat without any manner of aſſiſtance. But the fear that had lent him ſuch powers, for the inſtant, rendered him weaker when the danger was over. He was the only one

of

of us who found no reſt at land; but he ſuffered without complaining, as his humanity was tender of diſturbing our repoſe.

When the day-light had rouſed us from the arms of ſleep, I went to enquire how he was, and found him approaching to his laſt moments. I called upon the reſt of our companions to try what help they could afford; but how could any of us aſſiſt him, in ſuch a ſituation and circumſtances!

"My hour is come (ſaid he), I thank "Heaven, for preſerving my life long "enough to ſee you all, at preſent, in "a place of ſafety; my anxiety for "your deliverance will not now attend "me to the grave. O, my friends! "may you be able to profit farther of "this kindneſs of Providence. You are "not perhaps, at the end of your diffi-"culties, yet; though I flatter myſelf "that you have already paſſed the hea-

"vieſt

" vieſt of them; but I ſhall ſhare no " more of them with you. Pray for " me. I expire." He began to rave ſoon after theſe words, and drew his laſt breath before us.

His loſs coſt us many tears, ſuſpended the joy of our delivery, and afforded us leiſure for ſome melancholy reflections. We were then reſting on a deſert ſpot of land, ſurrounded by the ſea; ſome continent appeared in view, at no great diſtance, indeed; but how to reach it! Such thoughts added to our affliction, while we were paying the laſt duty to our departed friend, whom we interred in his cloaths, juſt as he died, having contrived with extreme labour to dig a grave for him, in the ſand. His name was *Dutronche*.

After the performance of this pious, but mournful office, we walked along the ſhore, and had the fortune to ſee ſome of our trunks, ſeveral caſks of

taſia,

tafia, a ſort of American liquor, and many bales of merchandize, thrown by the tide upon the coaſt, and which had arrived there before us.

But none of theſe goods, except the liquor, appeared to be of the leaſt conſequence to us. We ſhould have preferred a few biſcuit, fire-arms to defend, or provide us with food; but more immediately a good fire to have dried our cloaths, and warmed our limbs, quite numbed with cold and wet, to all the reſt.

This laſt diſtreſs being now our moſt preſſing evil, made us apply our whole thoughts and diligence to remedy it. We tried the method ſaid to be uſed by the ſavages, of kindling a fire, by rubbing two ſticks quick and hard againſt each other; but, whether thro' aukwardneſs, or ſome other impediment, the experiment failed us, and we gave over all further projects of the kind.

The

The ſea, by this time, having become almoſt calm, I formed a reſolution of going aboard our veſſel, by means of the ſhattered boat that had ſaved us ſo ſucceſsfully before. If it ſhould fail me, in the paſſage, ſaid I to myſelf, the diſtance is not ſo great, but that I ſhall be able to ſwim back again, while the wind continues its preſent ſlumber.

Upon this reflection, I applied to two of the ſailors, that I knew to be good ſwimmers, to go along with me; but the propoſition made them ſhudder. They had not ſo ſoon forgot their ſufferings on the ſide of the veſſel; and they trembled at the idea of their being obliged to renew them, if the ſtorm ſhould happen to riſe again, before they could return.

I did not preſs them further, they might have been uſeleſs to me; for even ſhould they have ventured, with

ſo

ſo much dread about them, and terrified at the ſmalleſt wave, inſtead of affording me aſſiſtance, they might rather have increaſed my difficulties, and embarraſſed the enterprize I had determined to adventure upon.

The very idea of that unlucky ſhip had filled the minds of the whole crew with ſo much horror, that many of them endeavoured to diſſuade me from my purpoſe. I chid them for their panic, and ran into the boat with precipitation, without liſtening to any more of their remonſtrances, leſt their united perſuaſions might have weakened my reſolution.

I have obſerved, upon ſeveral occaſions in life, how much the example of the many is apt to influence the individual. The braveſt ſoldier will become timorous, on a party with poltroons,; and a coward has often been inſpired with the courage of his companions. I ar-

I arrived ſafe at the ſhip, where the ſea, having ſubſided after the ſtorm, had left ſome part of the deck uncovered. I moored the boat, and got into the veſſel, with ſome difficulty. It was deep in water, and I was obliged ſometimes to wade up to my breaſt. I could not eaſily find the articles I was in queſt of; for every thing had been overturned, and drove out of its place, by the many ſhocks the veſſel had undergone during the ſtorm.

I had the good fortune, however, to lay my hands on a ſmall barrel of gunpowder, about twenty-five pounds weight. It happened to lye in a place above the water; beſides, the caſk was ſtaunch enough to have kept the powder dry, as it had been before uſed for brandy, and afterwards applied to this purpoſe by Monſieur la Couture, when he was fitting out for this unhappy voyage. I recovered alſo ſix fuſils,

ſils, a parcel of Indian handkerchiefs, ſeveral blankets, a ſack, with between thirty and forty pounds weight of biſcuit, and two hatchets, which was all that I was able to carry away.

I returned to the iſland with my little cargo, and was received with a general ſhout of joy. The firſt thing I did, was to get a parcel of dry wood, of which there was ſufficient plenty on the coaſt, and had a large fire kindled; which was a comfortable relief to our little party: with this we employed ourſelves in drying the cloaths we had on us, with thoſe that had taken wet in our portmanteaus, and the blankets that I had juſt brought away from the ſhip.

Then I ordered ſome of the ſailors to bring ſome freſh water from a ſpring in order to ſteep our biſcuit in, which had been drenched in the ſea.

This water was extremely brackiſh; but as it was not bitter, we corrected it with ſome of the *taſia*, and reſted ſatisfied with this improvement, becauſe we happened to be ignorant that there was any better to be had, in the iſland; though I have ſince learned that it abounds with freſh rivers and clear ſprings.

While ſome of us were employed in curing the biſcuit, and ſpreading them abroad to dry, others occupied themſelves in cleaning the arms, and preparing them for uſe, which was ſoon performed. I happened luckily to have ſome pounds of ſmall ſhot in my cloak-bag, which I provided two of our beſt markſmen with ſome of, along with a proper portion of gun-powder, who returned to us, in about an hour, with half a dozen wild-fowl, which abound on that coaſt.

We

We had them dreſſed for ſupper, and they ſupplied us with an excellent meal. We then paſſed the night round about our fire, wrapped up in our dry cloathing: we felt ourſelves warm and comfortable; and any other accommodation ſeemed trifling, in compariſon with this circumſtance.

The next day, the 20th of February, we began to conſider what we had farther to provide for. The change from bad to better, with the ſeveral immediately neceſſary occupations of the day before, had ſo engroſſed our whole attention, that we had not leiſure to reflect on what was hereafter to become of us. We had eſteemed ourſelves happy when we looked back upon our miraculous eſcape; but ceaſed to be ſo when we looked forward to our future ſafety. We were caſt upon a deſert iſland: we perceived no beaten path to conduct us to any inhabited ſpot: we

had large rivers to croſs, and great foreſts to paſs through, where we muſt run the hazard of loſing our way, every ſtep. Wild beaſts were to be apprehended, and the meeting with ſavages, perhaps, not leſs dangerous than they; nay we could not be certain but that there might be both of theſe enemies in the very iſland we then ſtood upon.

We knew that the inhabitants of the Apalachian coaſt forſake the villages, during the winter-ſeaſon, and betake themſelves to the neighbouring iſlands, where they follow the chace, till about the beginning of April, when they return to the continent again, laden with the ſkins of wild animals they have hunted down, which they traffic with the Europeans for arms, ammunition, and brandy.

It might poſſibly happen that we ſhould be ſurpriſed by a troop of thoſe ſavages, at a time we were not prepared

ed for them; they would certainly put us to death, in order to rob us of what effects, though ever ſo inconſiderable, we might be poſſeſſed of: we were afraid alſo that the caſks of *tafia*, that were lying on the coaſt, might fall in-into their hands, and, loving that liquor, they might get drunk with it, and meeting with us in ſuch a condition, when it would be impoſſible to get them to liſten to reaſon, might maſſacre us all, without remorſe, out of mere ſtupid brutality. This latter peril, however, we took care to prevent, immediately, by ſtaving all the caſks, except three, which we hid in a wood, and buried under the ſand.

We remained, this whole day, and all the next, under ſuch inquietudes and apprehenſions as ſuch reflections muſt naturally have inſpired. We ſtarted at the leaſt noiſe, in dread of an attack: we dared not ſeparate from

one another, for a moment; day and night we ſlept by turns, and placed centinels, fronting the four points of the compaſs, to guard againſt a ſurprize; and ſome of us who diſtruſted the vigilance of thoſe who were on duty, loſt their own reſt, to watch with them. In fine, there never was ſo ſmall a number of perſons got together oppreſſed with ſo many misfortunes and fears.

The 22d of February, in the morning, our whole troop, fatigued with the vigils of the night, happened to fall altogether into a profound ſleep, when we were ſuddenly rouſed by a ſailor, who happened to be more watchful than the reſt, and cried out, "Awake! "Behold the ſavages! We are loſt!" Every one ſtarted up, at the word; and without conſulting any other method of ſafety, were beginning to fly into the woods; but I prevailed on them

them to ſtand their ground, by deſiring them to look at the enemy they were afraid of, and to reckon their number, which was only five; two men and three women, armed each with a fuſil *. " What are you afraid of? " (ſaid I.) Is ſuch a party as that ſo " formidable to you? How much in- " ferior is it to ours. We are in a ſtate " to dictate to them, if they ſhould " have come upon us with any hoſtile " intentions. Let us wait their ap- " proach; for they may to the laſt de- " gree be uſeful to us, by extricating " us out of our preſent difficulties."

My companions were ſtruck with ſhame at their cowardice, and ſat them-

* The paſſage in French is, " Tous armés d'un fuſil, & d'un *caſſe-tête*;" but this laſt expreſſion I am at a loſs to gueſs the meaning of, in this place. It ſignifies *heady wine*, or any difficult ſtudy or buſineſs that puzzles or perplexes the mind. Were I to hazard a conjecture, I ſhould tranſlate it *a bludgeon*, a good *caſſe-tête*, to break the head.

ſelves calmly down, by the fire-ſide, till the ſavages came up to us, whom we received with every token of friendſhip we could think of, which was likewiſe returned on their part. We preſented them with ſome preſents out of our trunks; and gave them alſo ſome cups of *tafia*, which they ſeemed to reliſh extremely. He who ſeemed to command the reſt, ſpoke to us in bad Spaniſh; and one of our ſailors that underſtood the language, converſed with him, and ſerved as an interpreter between us.

We learned from the ſavage, that his name was Antonio, and that he was a native of St. Mark's, in the Apalachian mountains. He had come with his family to paſs the winter in an iſland about three leagues from the one we were in: Some pieces of our wreck, thrown upon the coaſt where he was, had prompted him to rove about, in ſearch of

of more. His family, then with him, conſiſted of his mother, ſiſter, wife, and nephew.

We aſked him if he would take the charge of conducting us to St. Mark's, on aſſurance of his being ſufficiently recompenſed for his trouble. He ſtepped aſide, upon this propoſal, and conferred, for near an hour, with his family, about it, caſting an eye, every now and then, to our arms, our portmanteaus, our blankets, and other commodities.

Theſe appearances alarmed us: we began to ſuſpect our guide; but the open countenance with which he returned to us, and the offer he made to come back to convoy us, without delay, diſpelled our doubts and apprehenſions. He told us that St. Mark was not above ten leagues off; but in this he either deceived us, or was himſelf miſtaken; for it was above

twenty-ſix. But this we were ignorant of, at that time; for had we not, this firſt breach of truth might have put us more on our guard.

Antonio retired with our preſents; and, as he promiſed to return to us the next day with his canoe, three of our ſailors made no difficulty of going along with him. He kept his word, and brought us a preſent of a buſtard, and half a roe-buck. As it was late before we could ſet out, we deferred our progreſs, till the day following.

On the 24th we freighted his bark with what part of our effects we could well carry with us, and departed only ſix of us, at this time; becauſe the canoe could not take in more at once. The whole crew inſiſted upon my being among the firſt paſſengers, being well aſſured, as they ſaid, that I ſhould not neglect thoſe who might be

be left behind, but would compel the ſavage to return for them, if he ſhould happen to be refractory.

Antonio landed us in the other iſland, where we met our three companions, who had left us two days before. My firſt attention on our arrival was paid to the confidence repoſed in me by five of our crew who had been left behind in Dog-Iſland. I intreated our hoſt to return inſtantly for them and the reſt of our effects; but he refuſed to go upon this errand ſo immediately, being willing, as he ſaid to me, firſt to ſet us down, in ſome place of ſafety, on *terra firma*, as they call the continent. This I moſt ſtrenuouſly oppoſed, his obſtinacy gave me reaſon to ſuſpect his intentions; and I prevailed on him, at laſt, to comply with my requeſt, after two intire days ſolicitation, promiſes, and threats.

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On the 28th we were all brought together again, which was a vaſt conſolation to us all; while we were aſunder, we felt as if a limb was wanting; we conſidered one another as brothers; we mutually aſſiſted and ſupported each other; the diſtinction between captain and ſailor was levelled to friends and equals. Nothing is ſo ſtrong as the ties made by misfortune! We were but fourteen now, and conſidered ourſelves as of one family.

As ſoon as we had been all collected together, I ſummoned the ſavage to perform his promiſe, and conduct us to ſome place of ſafety, on the *terra firma*; but the favourable diſpoſition he had at firſt ſhewn towards being ſerviceable to us, appeared now to be ſlackened; he ſeemed to fly from our ſolicitations; all the day was ſpent in hunting, and he returned

turned not to his hut, at night, which he had intirely ſurrendered to our poſſeſſion.

We were much at a loſs to know what to conjecture about his behaviour. Did he watch for an opportunity to ſtrip us of all our effects, and abſcond into the woods? Such a ſuſpicion excited us to ſo much vigilance, that we thought it impoſſible for him to take advantage of us.

Some of our companions, wearied at laſt with ſuch an anxious and uncertain ſtate of our affairs, propoſed methods of violence, that would probably have reſcued us from many hardſhips and misfortunes, ſince; their ſcheme was to ſlay the five ſavages, and ſeize their canoe, to tranſport us to the Apalaches, without further delay.

But I diſſuaded them from ſo deſperate a purpoſe, by repreſenting the danger of its conſequences. It was much

much to be apprehended that the other ſavages of their nation might ſoon come to the knowledge of their deaths, and revenge themſelves upon us in the ſame manner. None of us were acquainted with theſe iſlands, ſeas, or harbours; then how ſhould we be able to ſteer with ſafety to the terra firma? Chance, perhaps, might poſſibly conduct us thither; but what a madneſs to embark our lives on the ſole hope of ſuch an eſcape?

We had remained five days in this iſland, ſubſiſting on what fiſh and fowl we could provide ourſelves with, and huſbanding our biſcuit with the cloſeſt oeconomy, by ſtinting ourſelves to an ounce a day. At laſt, by lying on the watch for Antonio, we happened to intercept him, and by bribes and intreaties prevailed on him to carry us over to the continent.

On the 5th day of March we divided our little party, once more, loaded the canoe with the moſt conſiderable ſhare of our effects, and embarked, to the number of ſix; which was compoſed of Monſieur la Couture, his wife, his ſon, about fifteen years of age, who, by a ſurprizing miracle had, as well as his mother, been enabled to ſurvive all our hardſhips and fatigues, Monſieur Deſclau, myſelf, and the negro.

Antonio and his wife attended us in the paſſage, and left the three other ſavages behind them, with our eight ſailors; from whom we did not part, without ſhedding many tears, on each ſide. We were all of us ſenſible of a certain oppreſſion of heart, and a ſort of præſentiment, which ſeemed to forebode our never meeting again.

This expedition, ſo ardently deſired, and engaged in, after ſo much difficulty

ficulty, happened to be attended with more diſmal conſequences, even than our ſhipwreck. We had undergone many ſevere misfortunes, but worſe diſaſters lay ſtill in wait for us. It is in the following part of my ſtory that you will find I had occaſion to exert the utmoſt efforts of my fortitude; which, however, failed me often on the trial. You will meet with, in theſe ſubſequent memoirs, ſuch incredible misfortunes, and circumſtances ſo ſhocking, that the ſole recollection of them makes me tremble ſtill, even while I am but barely relating them.

Antonio had aſſured us, that our voyage would be completed in about two days; we ſhould, therefore, have only laid in proviſions ſufficient merely to have ſerved us during the paſſage, if the late experience of former difficulties and diſappointments had not hinted the precaution of taking on board a

ſubſiſtence for at leaſt double the time. It conſiſted of between ſix or ſeven pounds of biſcuit, with ſome quarters of broiled bear, and roe-buck.

Such a precaution was prudent, but not ſufficient; for our paſſage was much longer than we had been made to imagine. Antonio, after about three leagues ſailing, ſtopt at an iſland, where he obliged us to ſtay, till the next day, when he did not make greater expedition than before. I took notice that, inſtead of making towards the continent, he carried us from one iſland to another, without any manner of purpoſe, that we could conceive. This extraordinary manner of proceeding rendered me extremely uneaſy, and augmented the diſtruſt which his former conduct had inſpired me with.

Seven days were loitered away, in theſe trips, our proviſions were exhauſted, and we had nothing to ſub-

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ſiſt on, except a few oyſters that we met with on ſome of the coaſts, and two or three wild fowls, that the ſavages afforded us, now and then. Nor were we, after all, brought even within a view of the continent; though, overpowered with fatigue, weakened by the bad and ſcanty ſuſtenance we had been able to provide ourſelves with, and become now ſo extremely feeble, that we were hardly able to row the boat, in turns.

The miſerable ſituation to which we were at laſt reduced, made ſuch an impreſſion on my mind, as I had never felt before. My patience being quite exhauſted, by the continuance of his perverſeneſs, I became ſeized with ſuch a fit of rage and violence as was not any part of my uſual character. Antonio appeared plainly to be a treacherous villain, who meant to let us periſh, piece-meal; and ſelf-defence juſti-

juſtified any meaſure that might be neceſſary towards extricating us from our danger. Theſe reflections agitated my mind, in the middle of the night; I took Monſieur Deſclau and La Couture apart, to conſult with, on this emergency.

It ſurprized me, even then, how I could be capable of arguing ſo warmly for the putting of Antonio to death, when it was I alone who had ſtood forth in his defence, on a former occaſion, againſt our whole crew. I am not naturally cruel, but misfortunes had rendered me outrageous enough, at that inſtant, both to purpoſe and commit a murder. The ſituation I was in muſt plead my excuſe, and the event has ſince juſtified my apprehenſions and reſolve.

Monſieur Deſclau and La Couture judged differently of this affair; they repeated to me the ſame arguments I

had before made uſe of, when I oppoſed the crew upon the very ſame occaſion. I was not convinced, but complied, however, with their remonſtrances, and paſſed the remainder of the night without being able to frame any other ſcheme for our preſervation.

The next day, the 12th of March, we ſailed again, little more than two leagues, and landed, as uſual, on ſome other iſland; where, overcome with miſery and fatigue, and requiring reſt, we each of us wrapped ourſelves up in our blankets, as uſual, and lay down before a large fire. We gave ourſelves up to ſleep, with the moſt perfect acquieſcence, as the time we paſſed in forgetting our exiſtence, was certainly ſo many anxious moments ſubſtracted from our miſeries.

My ſlumber was but ſhort, my inquietudes rendered me wretched, and afforded me but a very broken reſt, from the

the diſmal apprehenſions which preſented themſelves to my imagination; I will not carry it ſo far as to ſay that they amounted to forebodings, as this, perhaps, may be one of the ſuperſtitions that the more enlightened philoſophy has aboliſhed, among other prejudices of the ſame kind. I pretend not therefore to inſiſt upon this notion here, I ſpeak only of what I have myſelf experienced.

I imagined, while I was in a doze, that I was ſtanding on the ſtrand, and perceived the ſavage and his wife ſailing away in his canoe: my mind was ſo ſtrongly impreſſed by this viſion, that I took it for a real fact which had been juſt tranſacted before my eyes, and conſequently ſent forth, in my ſleep, ſo piercing an exclamation as rouſed all my companions, who alſo awakened me by call-

ing out to know what new alarm had, juſt at that moment, affected me.

I told them what it was; they made a jeſt of my terrors; and their reaſoning and raillery, with my being too far from the coaſt to have ſeen the tranſaction, if it had been one, ſoon brought me to conclude that I had been only dreaming; and I then join'd with the reſt, to laugh at my own weakneſs.

Upon this they all compoſed themſelves to ſleep again, and I fell alſo into a profound ſlumber, in which I continued 'till about midnight, when I was ſtartled out of it, as before, by the very ſame idea I have juſt related to you. My apprehenſions became now ſo ſtrong, that I could not avoid going immediately down to the ſhore, either to quiet or confirm my fears.

I aroſe alone, without diſturbing any one, and walked away, with feeble

ble and ſtaggering ſteps, to the ſea-ſide. The ſky was clear, and the moon ſhone bright enough to afford me a diſtinct view of the whole coaſt. I looked for the canoe, but found it not; I ſearched every cranny for it, but in vain. I called to the ſavage ſeveral times, but received no anſwer, except from my companions, who, awakened by my voice, came all running towards me.

There was no occaſion to inform them of our misfortune; they appeared frantic with deſpair, and lamented moſt bitterly at having reſtrained my hand from preventing this act of perfidy, the evening before. But how uſeleſs are reflections or regrets, after the evil is become irreparable!

Behold us now a ſecond time left on a deſart iſland, without reſource, without food, and without arms to procure ſubſiſtence. We had

no cloaths, except what were on our backs, and our blankets. Our fuſils and all our other effects had been ſtowed aboard the boat. Even our ſwords, which we had uſually worn, as defence againſt the wild beaſts and ſavages we had been in conſtant dread of, had been careleſsly left behind us, the day before. In fine, we remained without any ſort of weapon, offenſive or defenſive, among us all, except a blunt knife that I happened to have in my pocket.

The iſland produced neither root or fruit, of any kind, to ſuſtain us; nor did that ſhore afford either oyſters, or any other ſort of ſhell-fiſh. What a ſhocking ſituation! What hope, what poſſibility, even was left us now! And what could avail the nobleſt fortitude in ſuch circumſtances of deſpair?

As ſoon as the day appeared, we rolled our blankets about us, now the

the only goods or effects we poſſeſſed in the world; and returned to the ſtrand, hoping to find ſome ſort of fiſh there to ſatisfy our hunger. Our ſearches were in vain; we walked for near two hours, about the land, without diſcovering any thing that could ſerve us for food, or even a drop of freſh water to drink.

We came, at length, to the end of this barren iſland, from whence we could ſee another, that was ſeparated from ours by a ſtrait, about half a quarter of a league over; we had paſſed a day and a night there before, with the ſavage, and remembered that it had good water, and excellent ſhell-fiſh, on its coaſt. How much did we regret that we had not been deſerted on that ſpot, inſtead of where we now were; we could have at leaſt ſubſiſted there. This reflection increaſed our miſery; we ſat down on the ſand, regarding

with a greedy eye the iſland before us, and deploring the ſterility of our own.

Preſſed by hunger, we deliberated whether we ought not to hazard the croſſing that arm of the ſea which divided the two iſlands; we muſt expect death if we did not attempt it; our choice was made without heſitation; we reſolved to venture, but, on going to execute our ſcheme, we were ſtopped by a difficulty, we had not yet thought of.

Madame la Couture and her ſon were with us, and how could they follow us? This paſſage was not dreadful to men accuſtomed to the water; but a woman, and ſo young a lad, could not undertake it without danger. Already we ſaw Monſieur la Couture uneaſy, meaſuring the channel with his eyes, and thinking on the means to conduct with ſafety perſons

ſons ſo dear to him. Humanity would not permit us to leave them behind, ſo we reſolved to relieve each other, ſucceſſively, in ſupporting them both, whilſt my negro, who was the loweſt of the company, marched firſt, to ſound the bottom, and point out to us where we might beſt attempt to ford it.

I took the hand of Madame la Couture, Mr. Deſclau took that of the young man; Mr. la Couture made two parcels of part of our cloaths, that we had put off, placed one on the head of my ſlave, and carried the other himſelf. Thus we ſet out, at laſt—fortunately the bottom was tolerably firm and even; the water, in the deepeſt part, came no higher than our ſtomachs: we marched on ſlowly, and reached the oppoſite ſhore, at length, in ſafety. Madame la Couture, during this dangerous paſſage, ſhewed

ſhewed a courage and ſtrength that ſurpriſed me; ſhe preſerved the ſame in every ſituation; nor could it be ſaid that her company was either uſeleſs, or troubleſome to us. We happily arrived at this iſland, where we hoped to find ſome nouriſhment; but experienced a new diſtreſs that was near being fatal to us—we had been an hour and a half in the water, and an extreme coldneſs ſeized us on quitting it. To makea fire, either to dry or warm us, was now rendered impoſſible, as there was not a flint to be found, in this, or any other of theſe iſles that we had wandered over.

Though we were already almoſt ſpent with fatigue and famine, exerciſe was our only reſource; we continued, therefore, to walk for ſeveral hours, ſearching for oyſters, which we devoured as faſt as we could find them. After having thus ſatisfied

fied the impatients call of hunger, we had the precaution to gather a few, as a reſerve ; and the ſun caſting now a conſiderable heat, ſerved to dry our wet cloaths, and permitted us to reſt, for ſome time. The air was extremely ſharp, during the night, and often obliged us to riſe and walk, to prevent its dangerous effects.

The next day, a wind at ſouth ſouth-eaſt increaſed the heat of the ſun; we renewed our ſearch after ſhell-fiſh, along the beach, but the tide was not out, and there was no fiſh to be come at ; ſo that we were forced to content ourſelves with the ſmall proviſion that we had laid by, the preceding evening. We had afterwards occaſion to obſerve, that the tide never ebbed, while the ſoutherly winds continued. We acquired this knowledge, at our own expence, as by this means we were frequently in want of food. We ſought

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amongſt the herbs and roots for a ſupply, but could diſcover nothing eatable, except ſome wild ſorrel.

I will not enter into a tedious detail of all that paſt in the firſt ten days after Antonio had abandoned us; we ſuffered exceedingly from cold by night, and not ſeldom from famine; we paſt whole days in bewailing our misfortunes, and in prayer to the Almighty, that he would deign to put an end to them: in fine, our pains, our ſorrows, and our employments, could not afford ſufficient variety for further deſcription.

We had now reached the 22d of March, as nearly as we could gueſs, when, in the midſt of our uſual lamentations, and anxious meditations on the means of quitting our wretched abode, we recollected, that in a neighbouring iſland, which we had happened to touch at with the vile Indian, there lay on the

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ſhore the remains of an old canoe, which we imagined might be poſſible for us to repair well enough to be able to carry us over to the continent.

This flattering idea was readily embraced; we delivered ourſelves up to joy, as if we were already certain of realizing our wiſhes. The unfortunate willingly yield to the ſlighteſt promiſes of hope; their imaginations preſs forward to the end of their ſufferings; to this great object all their reaſonings tend, and they either overlook, or dare not examine, the obſtacles that oppoſe their expectation, leſt they ſhould diſpel that happy deluſion which remains their ſole comfort.

Monſieur Deſclau Monſieur la Couture, and I conſulted together about the means of getting to the place where this old ſhattered boat lay. We made an obſervation to the eaſtward, as well

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as we could, and, computing how far diſtant we then were from that coaſt, we concluded it to be between four and five leagues off. In reality we were not deceived: but we had many difficulties to encounter in this expedition; for there were ſeveral rivers, and an arm of the ſea, to croſs. However, theſe obſtacles did not diſcourage us; we determined to attempt the enterprize, at leaſt, upon this perſuaſion, that reſolution and perſeverance are a match for any undertaking, which is not impoſſible in nature.

We reſolved to ſet out, the ſame day, and not to take Madame la Couture, or her ſon, with us, as they would only have retarded our deſign; neither could they have ſupported, like us, the labour and fatigue of it: beſides, it was probable that the waters we had to paſs, might be ſo deep, as to oblige us to ſwim,

which they were incapable of doing. Madame la Couture, convinced by theſe reaſons, conſented to wait our return, with her ſon: I left my negro behind, to attend them, and we departed after promiſing to return, either with or without the canoe, as ſoon as poſſible.

The project we had now undertaken, was our laſt hope and reſource; we talked of it during our journey, as of a moſt probable ſcheme. This re-animated our ſpirits, recruited our ſtrength, and rendered the way leſs tedious.

In every ſtate of life, and in all the circumſtances of it, mankind indulge themſelves in chimeras, and often quit ſubſtances for ſhadows. But it is only to the wretched that ſuch illuſions become a real bleſſing: whilſt their imaginations are amuſed, their ſorrows are relieved, and for a time forgotten. Between three and four hours walk-

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ing brought us to the utmoſt extremity of our land, without being forced to paſs any river larger than what we ſhould term a brook, in Europe; but now a ſort of canal, about a quarter of a league broad, preſented itſelf to our view, and arreſted our courſe.

We muſt hazard the croſſing this arm of the ſea, or reſign our hopes. This reflection ſuſtained our reſolution; and an hour's reſt recovered us a little; we needed all our ſtrength, as we were ignorant whether this water was everywhere fordable, and trembled leſt the part which might have required our ſwimming, ſhould exceed the ſmall degree of force we might then be left poſſeſſed of. This idea held us for ſome time in ſuſpence; at length, reſolving to riſk every thing, we kneeled, and addreſſed a ſhort, but fervent prayer, to God, for his ſupport under this trial. The various perils we had already paſ-

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ſed through, and thoſe we had yet to encounter, taught us how much we ſtood in need of the aſſiſtance of the Supreme Being; relying, therefore, on his protection, the moment we had ended our ejaculations we all ruſhed into the water.

The bottom was very unequal, and for ſome time we waded in the uncertain courſe of aſcending and deſcending, when ſuddenly we loſt the ground, and plunged quite out of our depth. As we were not above an hundred yards from land, this unlucky circumſtance diſmayed us a good deal, and almoſt determined us to return back to ſhore: however, we continued ſtill to preſs forward, and, after a few ſtrokes, had the good fortune to recover our footing again; for we had only fallen into a hole, which might have been avoided by taking a round of ten or twelve paces, the water was not in any

place higher than our chins; and we reached the oppoſite coaſt without any other accident or miſadventure.

Quite overpowered by fatigue, we ſunk down on the ſtrand, unable to advance one ſtep farther. The day, fortunately for us, was perfectly ſerene, the ſun ſhone bright, and darted his rays full upon us, which dried our cloaths, and defended us from the cold, which would have elſe been inſupportable.

A few ſhell-fiſh and ſome freſh water, that we were lucky enough to find as ſoon as we could move about, helped to reſtore our ſtrength a little; and, after a ſhort ſearch, we diſcovered the canoe. We examined it with eager attention; but the view did not ſerve to encourage us; it appeared impoſſible, from the ſtate it was then in, ever to render it uſeful to us; but we did not, however, ſo eaſily reſign the fond

hope

hope which had firſt induced us to undergo ſo much fatigue and peril on the proſpect. It would have been a dreadful circumſtance to us to have found ourſelves undeceived all at once. We turned it, therefore, on every ſide; we conſidered every part, and, upon a thorough inſpection, I concluded that all our efforts would be in vain.

Mr. Deſclau and Monſieur la Couture were of a different opinion, and I acquieſced in their reaſonings. We hazarded nothing by endeavouring to repair it; for it was but time and trouble thrown away, if we did not ſucceed. Now we were well accuſtomed to labour; and as to time, we had no other way of employing it; the work would amuſe us while we were occupied about it, and help to ſuſtain our ſmall remains of hope. Theſe conſiderations were matters of no incon-

ſiderable importance, in a ſituation ſo wretched and forlorn as ours.

We began, then, directly, to gather a parcel of oſiers, and a ſort of tough-compacted maſs that is called *Spaniſh beard*, that grows generally on the bark of the trees, in thoſe iſlands; which we made uſe of for caſing and caulking our leaky veſſel. In this operation we continued to labour, till the more immediate calls of hunger obliged us to ſeek every-where for food, of which we happily found a ſufficient quantity for that time.

The day was now beginning to cloſe, and a ſharp wind aroſe, which threatened us with a night ſeverely cold; we lamented bitterly the not having it in our power to relieve ourſelves with a fire; the ſmalleſt flint would have been to us, then, a greater treaſure than the largeſt diamond.

At

At that inſtant I happened luckily to recollect that the ſavage, who had ſo cruelly betrayed us, had changed the flint of his gun the day that we reſted in this iſland; the remembrance of this circumſtance revived a gleam of hope in my deſponding mind; I immediately ſtarted up, with a precipitation that ſurpriſed my companions; I left them, without ſpeaking a word, and ran haſtily towards that ſide of the ſhore where Antonio had landed us.

It was at no great diſtance, and I ſoon found the place where we had paſſed that night, and where there ſtill remained the cinders of our fire; I ſearched carefully for the ſpot on which the Indian had changed his flint, and caſt away the old one.

There was not a crevice but I examined with the moſt ſcrupulous attention, and not a blade of graſs but I

turned up, to ſee if this precious ſtone was concealed beneath it.

I ſpent a full quarter of an hour in this fruitleſs ſearch; night began to fall, and I had now only the faint and uncertain glimmering of the twilight to aſſiſt me, by which it was almoſt impoſſible to have diſcerned ſo ſmall an object. I then gave up all hopes, and was preparing to return to my companions, more diſpirited and afflicted than I was at leaving them, when I felt under my naked foot (for I had thrown aſide my ſhoes, as being of no farther uſe to me) ſome hard ſubſtance or other. I ſtopt ſhort, with a ſecret ſhuddering, an anxious ſtate of mind between hope and fear; I ſtooped down, and, with a trembling hand, took it from under my foot, which I did not dare to move, for fear of miſſing what I was in ſearch of. It was, in fine, the very flint I had been ſo long in queſt of.

The

The joy I felt, on this occaſion, muſt, doubtleſs, appear amazing to you; and thoſe who have never been in my circumſtances, will look on this lucky prize but as a common pebble. O, my friend! may you ever remain a ſtranger to ſuch extreme neceſſity as gives the higheſt value and importance to the moſt worthleſs things in nature!

Tranſported with extaſy, I flew to my companions! "Good news! good "news! (I cried out, as far as they "could hear me.) I have found it! I "have found it!" They ran towards me, at the ſound of my exclamations, and inquired into the meaning of them. I ſhewed them the flint, and deſired them immediately to gather up ſome dry wood; I took my knife, the only iron inſtrument which remained in our poſſeſſion, I tore my ruffles for tinder; and, at laſt, contrived to light up

a large fire, which defended us againſt the damps of the night, and warmed and relieved our wearied limbs.

How delicious did this night appear to us, compared to the foregoing ones! With what luxury did we ſtretch ourſelves before the fire! How ſweet and refreſhing were our ſlumbers, in which we lay diſſolved till the rays of the riſing ſun, beaming forcibly upon our heads, awakened us.

It is unneceſſary to tell you with what a fond ſolicitude I watched and guarded the precious taliſman, which had redeemed us from deſtruction; I would never part with it, for a minute, even to thoſe who were equally intereſted in its preſervation, but kept it ever wrapt up in two handkerchiefs, which I tied about my neck; and even now, while I am writing, I cannot help ſometimes breaking off, and feeling for it, as if it were ſtill there.

We

We paſſed the ſecond day, after our arrival in this iſland, in continuing our labours toward repairing the ſkiff, and caulked it with one of our coverlets or blankets, which we ſacrificed to that purpoſe; but had ſcarcely finiſhed our work, when the day cloſed upon us; and we paſſed this ſecond night in the flattering hopes of not finding our trouble uſeleſs.

The deſire of trying the experiment, cauſed us to awake early, the next morning, eager to launch our canoe. But, alas! after all our endeavours, we had not yet rendered it fit for ſervice, at leaſt in the opinion of Monſieur Deſclau and me; but Monſieur la Couture differed from us, and ſaid that he would float it over to the iſland where he had left his wife and ſon, in hopes of being able to ſtaunch it better, by their aſſiſtance.

M. Deſ-

M. Deſclau and I choſe rather to return to the iſland where the ſavage had left us, and where our eight ſailors remained, in the hopes of finding him there, and forcing him to conduct us to the Appalaches, or periſhing in the attempt. We promiſed not to abandon Monſieur la Couture, if we ſucceeded, and to ſend him immediate ſuccours, or rejoin him, if we ſhould happen to fail in our deſign.

We then took leave of him, and gained the other extremity of the iſland, after a moſt uſeleſs fatigue; for we could diſcover no fordable paſſage, in a canal of a league over, which divided us from the point we were bound to; and this was too large a ſtretch to undertake the croſſing of, by ſwimming only. We, therefore, returned again to the ſpot from whence we had ſet out; but miſſed Monſieur la Couture, who had already carried over

his ſkiff to the place where his wife and ſon had been left behind.

We then ſet out, in order to follow him; but did not reach the border of the canal we were to croſs, till it was almoſt night: we, therefore, waited till the next morning, before we would venture to paſs it, as the fatigues of the day had rendered us too feeble to attempt it then, with ſafety. The alarms we had ſuffered, the firſt time, even in the day, preſented themſelves to our imaginations, anew; and we did not think proper to expoſe ourſelves to the ſame again, in the dark. Misfortunes render us extremely timorous. We call often upon death, at certain moments of diſtreſs, and wiſh for it, as the period of all our ſorrows; but when it appears before us, we ſtruggle againſt it with all the ſpirit and vigour of health and happineſs.

The next morning we waded thro' the canal, with as good ſucceſs, and leſs riſk, than we had done before. We found Madame la Couture and her ſon, who had paſſed a moſt wretched and anxious time of it in our abſence; we met alſo Monſieur la Couture with her, who had returned the night before, with the rotten canoe, that he had however contrived to ferry over, but not without its having been rendered almoſt as bad as before, even in ſo ſhort a voyage. The labour we had employed about it, was quite thrown away, as there was not ſolid ſtuff enough to work upon; ſo that all its parts were now become looſe and leaky again.

This ill ſucceſs quite ſunk our ſpirits, and we reſigned all further hope in that project, for the future, and paſſed the remainder of that day in reſt. The recovery of my flint was

an happy circumſtance for poor Madame la Couture and her ſon, who had been periſhing ſo long for want of a fire. We lighted up one immediately, which reanimated their harraſſed ſpirits with warmth and comfort.

Oyſters and vegetables had hitherto ſupplied us with our only ſuſtenance, and even of ſuch proviſion we had not always a ſufficient quantity; but this day Providence furniſhed us with ſome food of a better kind. I had ſeparated from my company, to take a ſolitary walk along the coaſt, and the irkſome reflections which occupied my mind, prevented me from obſerving that I had ſtrayed to a conſiderable diſtance; and I continued ſtill ruminating, when a dead roebuck, that happened to lie in my way, rouſed my attention.

I examined it, turned it over, and found that it was ſtill freſh. It appeared to have been wounded, and to have fled from the hunter, a-croſs the water, to this ſpot, where its loſs of blood had put an end to its life. I looked upon this occurrence as a preſent from heaven; and raiſing it with difficulty on my ſhoulders, returned back to my friends, whom I was not able to come up with, till after the fatigue of above an hour's march.

They were moſt joyfully ſurprized at the luckineſs of my adventure, and moſt piouſly returned their grateful thanks to Providence, for this new relief. We ſtood in need of a more ſubſtantial nouriſhment, than we had been for ſome time ſupplied with, and we accordingly made preparations for a better repaſt than we had ever taſted ſince the commencement of our misfortunes.

We

We aſſiſted in preparing the animal for food, by ſkinning and cutting it into quarters, and then broiled as much of it as ſerved us for a plentiful meal; after which we lay down round our fire, and partook of a night's reſt together.

On the following day, which was, as near as I can gueſs, the 26th of March, the impatient wiſh we had to get away from this iſland, made us to recur again to our periago, or canoe; to which we ſtill returned with renewed ardour, but were ſtill obliged to quit as often with the moſt mortal regret. The ill ſucceſs of former trials did not diſcourage us from ſubſequent attempts; we continued to flatter ourſelves that we ſhould ſucceed better on returning to the work again, by profiting of the experience that our very diſappointments might have afforded us, with regard either to the method,

method, or materials, we had before applied towards ſtaunching it.

But we had no change of ſtuff to ſupply, nor more ſolid ſubſtances to work upon; however our labour in vain was ſtill renewed, without advancing a ſtep in our operations; and after three intire days ſevere fatigue thrown away upon this occupation, and the ſacrificing two more blankets, in endeavouring to caulk this ſkiff, we found at length how fruitleſs had been all our pains to render it ſerviceable; for before it had been a quarter of an hour in the water, we perceived it beginning to leak, on all ſides.

This diſappointment to our laſt hopes, ſhocked us extremely; and we found it abſolutely impoſſible to remedy it. However, deſpairing of any other means of extricating ourſelves from our preſent deplorable ſtate, and panting to reach the continent, we

ſhut

ſhut our eyes upon the danger, and having only about two leagues to croſs over to it, we reſolved at laſt to hazard the attempt, in this ſieve.

But then it muſt have been madneſs to have ventured on the paſſage, all at the ſame time. This would have ſunk the boat, on our firſt ſetting out; we determined, therefore, that only three of us ſhould try the experiment, this trip; namely, Monſieur la Couture, Monſieur Deſclau, and I. That two of us ſhould row, while the other was to be indefatigable in lading out the water that might leak in, with his hat.

This expedient we knew would leſſen, tho' not annihilate our danger; but we reſolved, notwithſtanding, to take our chance, and deliver ourſelves over into the hands of Providence, in hope of a ſecond miracle in our fa-

vour, to bear us through this perilous adventure.

This reſolution being taken, we deferred the execution of it till the next day, and ſpent the remainder of this, in endeavouring to perſuade Madame la Couture to ſtay where ſhe then was, with her ſon, and my negro, 'till we could ſend them a ſtronger boat, which might eaſily have been procured as ſoon as we ſhould have reached the continent.

It was with difficulty we could reconcile her to this ſcheme, and ſhe yielded, at length, with infinite reluctance. In order to bribe her conſent, I left my flint and knife with her ſon; though I muſt confeſs it was with much regret that I ventured theſe two inſtruments out of my hands, which had been ſo extremely ſerviceable to us all, and which I might chance

chance to ſtand in need of myſelf, if I ſhould be a ſecond time ſhip-wrecked in the leaky canoe, and caſt upon ſome deſert ſhore: but it was neceſſary that ſhe ſhould be left with whatever comforts or conveniencies we could ſpare.

When we had quieted her apprehenſions, and ſilenced her lamentations, we gathered together what proviſions we could, both for her accommodation, and our own during the paſſage, and on the 29th of March, at ſunriſe, we ſet our canoe afloat, ſaid our prayers, and embarked.

But we felt the plank we ſtood upon bend under our feet; our weight ſunk the boat too low for ſafety, and we ſoon perceived the water beginning to ſpring through its ſides. Theſe appearances deprived me of all manner of hope; a ſecret trembling ſhook my whole frame, and a profound

terror ſeized me, which I found it impoſſible to conquer.

I already ſaw death before my eyes, and reſolved not to venture upon the paſſage; but haſtily ſtepping on ſhore, "No, my friends; (cried I, to la Cou-"ture and Deſclau,) we muſt not un-"dertake this voyage; before we could "advance a quarter of a league, the "boat would go to the bottom, and "leave us in the midſt of an unknown "ocean, and far from any land where "we could hope for refuge. Let us "remain where we are at preſent, and "wait with reſignation the farther care "and aſſiſtance of that kind Provi-"dence which has hitherto preſerved "us.—Let us not throw ourſelves into "the arms of death, nor challenge his "ſtroke before our time. Heaven will "perhaps take pity on our long ſuffer-"ings, and our patience and ſubmiſ-"ſion may at length merit its final re-"lief." Mon-

Monſieur la Couture preſſed me to return, and made a jeſt of my apprehenſions. My ſollicitations and arguments were to him of no effect, he ſtill perſiſted in his purpoſe to hazard the voyage, and Monſieur Deſclau departed along with him.

I remained on the ſtrand, looking after them, while they continued in ſight; I ſaw them proceed with great difficulty, and turn round a little iſland that was not far from our own, which ſoon prevented me from ſeeing any more of them.

I make no doubt but they muſt have periſhed then, as I have never received any account of them ſince; and I believe that the boat could have ſubſiſted but ſo ſhort a time above water, that had it not been for the iſland which intervened, and concealed them from my ſight, I might, perhaps,

have had the ſhock of ſeeing the veſſel ſink before my eyes, and my unfortunate friends buried along with it in the waves.

The condition of the periago, as already repreſented, is a preſumption of this event, equal almoſt to a conviction; and ſome further circumſtances that have occurred to my knowledge ſince, and of which I ſhall hereafter ſpeak, have confirmed me in the certainty of their loſs.

I returned to Madame la Couture, who very little expected to have ſeen any of us ſo ſoon, if ever; ſhe had not accompanied us to the boat, for as her heart had not conſented to our risk, ſhe could not have borne the ſight of our departure. I found her ſitting by the fire, with her back turned to the ſea, weeping bitterly, and lamenting the miſery of her hopeleſs ſituation.

My

My preſence ſurprized and ſtartled her.—"You are not yet gone, (ſaid "ſhe,) Ah! what has prevented you? "Believing your departure certain, I "was endeavouring to reconcile my- "ſelf to our ſeparation, and this af- "flicting reflection was beginning to "affect me leſs, through the hope that "you would not neglect me. But I "ſee you are returned again, and yet "cannot rejoice, as it can only ſerve "to renew the pangs of a ſecond "parting."

I ſtrove to avoid giving her more lively ſenſations of ſorrow; by not telling her the reaſon of my coming back, or hinting my fears about the unhappy adventurers I had left behind, of whom one was her huſband. I concealed the danger to which they had expoſed themſelves, and pretended only, that upon our apprehending three paſſengers to be too great a weight for

the boat, I had made my choice of ſtaying with her, 'till their return in ſome ſtouter veſſel that might be able to carry us all together over to the continent.

I added, as I ſtill conſidered her to be an object of the utmoſt compaſſion, that Monſieur la Couture being charmed with my determination, and aſſured that he was to leave a ſincere friend behind, to comfort and take care of his wife and child, had proceeded on the voyage with better ſpirits and ſatisfaction; and that I had promiſed him to be active in my ſervices and aſſiſtance to both of them.

Madame la Couture returned me thanks, almoſt on her knees; my ſtaying with her ſeemed to conſole her extremely, and to raiſe a ſort of confidence in her mind, that Providence would unite us ſoon, all happily again.

We

We remained now but four perſons in the whole iſland, and I had the care alone of providing for the ſafety and ſubſiſtence of us all. Madame la Couture and her ſon were too weak and helpleſs to afford me much aſſiſtance, ſo that the negro was the only one who could be of any material ſervice to me; and he was but a ſort of organized machine, whoſe legs and arms alone were uſeful; he had neither ſenſe nor forecaſt, and was almoſt as much an incumbrance on me, as the others; as he could give me no manner of help, but when mere manual labour was required.

For ſome days after I had returned to them, the winds continued at ſouth and ſouth-eaſt, which unhappily prevented us, as I before obſerved, from being able to procure any ſubſiſtence, from oyſters or other ſhell-fiſh, ſo that we were reduced to ſupport ourſelves ſolely

ſolely on a ſort of wild ſorrel we picked up on the iſland, which afforded us but a wretched ſuſtenance, and weakened our ſtomachs, without ſatisfying them.

The roe-buck that I had ſo luckily met with, had been totally devoured, before our companions left us; and the ſame good fortune did not occur again: a ſeries of lucky hits are not to be expected in this uncertain world. In fine, our wants and diſtreſſes augmented every hour.

Six days had paſſed ſince the departure of Monſieur la Couture and Deſclau; at ſometimes I had ſlight hopes that we might poſſibly hear from, or ſee them return to our ſuccour; but then again, my ſpirits ſoon ſunk into deſpondency, and even Madame la Couture began at length to give them over for loſt, and conclude that they muſt have periſhed at ſea.

I could not pretend any longer to calm her fears and ſolicitudes, who had myſelf ſo much ſtronger reaſons than ſhe to be confirmed in the ſame opinion: beſides, the anxieties I had ſuffered, with the heavineſs of my misfortunes, had ſoured my temper, and given me ſuch a wearineſs and diſguſt, that I was, at length, rendered incapable of diſguiſing my ſentiments, or preſerving any further management of them, with regard to others.

Tired to the laſt degree with my wretched ſituation, and knowing, of a ſad certainty, that I had no one but myſelf now to expect any relief from, toward extricating us out of our deplorable circumſtances, a thought occurred ſtrongly to my mind, one morning, that I might poſſibly be able to collect ſufficient materials together, on the iſland, capable of floating us over, ſome calm day or other, to the continent. This

This idea operated in ſo lively a manner on my imagination, that I regretted my not thinking of it before the departure of my poor friends; they could have aſſiſted me in ſuch an undertaking, with better effect than in all the labour we had thrown away together, or rather worſe employed, upon the fatal canoe. I was reſolved, therefore, to ſet about this work, without a moment's farther loſs of time, while I preſerved ſufficient ſtrength of body and mind to execute it.

I inſtantly communicated my purpoſe to Madame la Couture, who ſeemed tranſported at the thought, and who immediately ſurmounting the natural feebleneſs of her ſex, which her misfortunes had augmented, ſet her hand to the buſineſs with amazing vigour and ſpirit.

We all of us engaged in the work, without the leaſt manner of delay; I em-

employed the young man in ſtripping a parcel of trees of their bark, directing him to thoſe which I thought might anſwer the purpoſe beſt, while his mother, the negro, and I aſſiſted one another in dragging them down to the ſea-ſide, with extreme labour, as our ſtrength had been conſiderably impaired by faſting, watching, and former fatigue. At every five or ſix ſteps of the way, we were obliged to halt, and lay ourſelves down to reſt; and, as ſoon as we had recovered breath, returned to our work, with a reſolution and perſeverance, that nothing but the ardour of redeeming ourſelves from this horrid exile could have inſpired and ſupported.

We were almoſt exhauſted by the time that the falling of night would otherwiſe have forced us to lay aſide our labour, and had the pleaſure, on our return to the fire-ſide, to find a large quantity of oyſters, muſſels, cockles,

cockles, and other ſhell-fiſh, that the young la Couture had gathered, at low-water, upon the changing of the wind, which happened that evening,

Such kind of food is deemed unwholeſome, and of bad digeſtion, eaten raw; therefore we broiled them on our charcoal, which was the firſt time we had ever taken this precaution, and we found it agree better with our ſtomachs. Theſe fiſh loſe all their dangerous qualities by cookery, becoming lighter, and more nouriſhing, but are leſs grateful to the palate; and we had nothing to ſeaſon them with: we had no ſalt, nor knew we how to make any: the float, which engaged our whole attention, did not permit us leiſure enough to ſet about ſuch a manufacture. We were willing to forgive that, or any other commodity, rather than be confined for life, in ſo forlorn a ſituation.

The

The next morning, we ſet ourſelves to our buſineſs again; the tough rinds of thoſe trees which I had directed La Couture to ſtrip, ſerved us to bind the timber together; but, as we did not think thoſe ligatures ſtrong enough to truſt to, on our voyage, I made Madame la Couture cut up one of our blankets, into ſtrings, for the purpoſe. My negro brought me ſeveral pieces of ſmaller and more pliant branches, with which we interwove the groſſer timber, and my raft was completed, about noon. I then ſet up a ſtick, in the middle of it, which I faſtened as well as I could, to ſerve for a maſt, to which I tied a blanket, by way of ſail; and then broke up our ſtockings, to form the thread into cordage, to ſhift it, as the wind might vary.

Theſe leſſer matters employed us for the reſt of that day, when we finiſhed

niſhed the work, even to the fixing a ſmall piece of timber behind, by way of rudder.

Being determined to ſet out, the next morning, at break of day, we employed ourſelves, even as late as it then was, in making a proviſion of ſome oyſters and vegetables, of which we were lucky enough to collect a ſufficient quantity to ſerve us at ſea, and depoſited them on the raft, which we had moored on the ſtrand, waiting for the return of the tide, to ſet it afloat. The ebb generally commenced early in the morning, and we purpoſed the retiring along with it.

In expectation of this happy minute, we lay down to repoſe ourſelves, before our fire, but ſlept very little; for there aroſe an horrid ſtorm, in the middle of the night: the heavy rain, quick flaſhes of lightning, and loud

loud thunder, ſoon rouſed us from our ſlumbers. The wind was high, and the waves grew boiſterous.

This made us tremble for the ſafety of our raft, our ſole *palladium*; and the raging of the elements having ceaſed, juſt at the dawn of day, we all ran down to the ſhore, to ſee how it had withſtood the hurricane. But alas! it was no more! The waves had hurried it from its mooring, tore it to pieces and buried it in the ſea, along with our whole ſtock of proviſions, for the voyage. Our courage abandoned us all, upon this extremity of ill fortune, and we ſpent the whole day in condoling with each other, and lamenting the ſeverity of our fate, without ſparing one thought toward attempting any future relief, or even attending to the more immediate ſupport of nature.

A new affliction was now added to our other miſeries. Since the commencement of our misfortunes, we had none of us fallen ill; our healths had been happily ſtill preſerved, throughout all our difficulties; and we ſuffered no other inconveniencies, except want and weakneſs. My negro, while we were conſoling one another, upon our preſent diſtreſs, had gone to ſearch the border of the ſea for ſome kind of ſuſtenance, which, under the preſſure of our preſent deſpondency, we had wholly neglected.

The tide was in, and he could not get at any ſort of ſhell-fiſh; but happening to meet with the head and ſkin of a porpoiſe, he brought them to us in a ſort of triumph at his ſucceſs. It was almoſt come to a ſtate of putrefaction, but hunger has no delicacy; ſo having broiled it, our craving

ſtomachs

ſtomachs greedily devoured every morſel of that food, which was ſo offenſive both to our ſight and ſmell.

About an hour after we had ſwallowed this meal, we were all of us ſeized with a moſt deadly ſickneſs; our ſtomachs had been overcharged, and we could not contrive how to rid them of this irkſome incumbrance. We had recourſe to water, of which luckily there was plenty in the iſland, and drank large draughts of it; but this only eaſed us by degrees, as we had no method of making it warm. Our diſorder turned to a dyſentery, which continued ſeverely on us all, for about five days.

The deſign of conſtructing another float had occurred to me, the moment that I ſaw the former had been deſtroyed; but grief, diſappointment, and fatigue, had put it out of my power to undertake ſuch a work, on the firſt day; and we were

none of us in a condition to ſet about it while our diſorder continued; and, even after it had ceaſed, we were left in too weakly a ſtate to attempt it.

However, the dread of the ſame, or ſome other diſeaſe, attacking us again, determined me to apply what little ſtrength ſubſiſted ſtill among us, towards this ſo neceſſary purpoſe. It had been madneſs to have waited till our powers might have been ſo totally exhauſted, as to diſable us intirely from executing the project. I exhorted Madame la Couture to ſecond me; ſhe made an effort on herſelf, as well as I, and we all applied ourſelves to the work, except her ſon, who continued ſtill extremely ill.

It was now about the 11th of April, I ſpeak by gueſs, and we laboured at this operation, without intermiſſion, and with as much exertion of ourſelves, as the enfeebled ſtate of body we

we were reduced to would permit, and had the ſucceſs to ſee it completely finiſhed by the 15th of the ſame month, at night.

We ſuffered double the fatigue in framing this raft, that we had undergone with the other; for the timber we were obliged to make uſe of, on this occaſion, lay at a greater diſtance from the ſhore, as what was to be got nearer had been all worked up, in the former one; ſo that the difficulty of rolling the trees to the ſea-ſide, muſt have been unſurmountable, in our then ſtate of weakneſs, if hope and deſpair both had not united together, for the firſt time, to inſpire the ſtrength of our bodies with the ſpirit of our minds.

At every pauſe of labour, we trembled, leſt bad weather ſhould again overtake us, and interrupt our progreſs, or deſtroy the work as ſoon as

it might be finiſhed. And yet it was impoſſible to uſe any further precaution; it muſt be conſtructed on the beach, and as near the ſea as could be, that the flowing of the tide might ſet it afloat, as all our united ſtrength would not have been able to launch it of ourſelves. The ſlighteſt cloud that appeared, or the leaſt breeze that blew, ſtruck us with a panic, and made us foreſee a tempeſt; and our fears tempted us often to quit the work, leſt all our labour ſhould be a ſecond time employed in vain.

We returned to it again, but without ſpirit, and labouring ſtill under the utmoſt anxiety; for as we had ſacrificed to this project, the reſt of our blankets and ſtockings, if a ſtorm ſhould diſappoint our hopes, as it had done already, we ſhould have had neither comfort or reſource left us then; but muſt have reſigned ourſelves

up, without farther ſtruggle, to deſtruction.

During the intire night of the 15th, our fears ceaſed not for a ſingle moment; even the ſerenity of the evening could not inſpire us with confidence. We never thought of ſleep, but ſpent the time in collecting together all the proviſions we could, of fiſh, roots, and vegetables, and depoſiting them on our raft, as before, reſolved to ſet out as ſoon as day-light appeared, if we ſhould be ſo happy as to eſcape a renewal of the ſame misfortune and diſappointment, which we had ſo ſeverely experienced before.

The morning returned, at length, and opened with all favourable omens. I went to awaken young La Couture, to embark with us. He was the only one of us whoſe weakneſs and fatigue, having ballanced his anxiety, had induced to ſleep. I called him, but he

made no reply: I took hold of his hand, to ſhake him from his ſlumber, but found him cold as marble, without movement or ſenſation. I concluded him to be dead, for ſome minutes; but feeling his naked breaſt, I perceived his heart was ſtill beating, though with a feeble pulſe.

Our fire was reduced to the laſt cinder; for, being in hopes of quitting the iſland every moment, and having no farther occaſion for it, we took no care to renew it. I ordered the negro to put on freſh fuel, while I exerted myſelf in rubbing the poor young man's hands, legs, and arms.

Madame la Couture came to us, juſt at that inſtant; but I ſhall not attempt to deſcribe her ſituation, her grief, and exclamations, on the ſight of her ſon. She fell into a ſwoon, by his ſide, which I thought would have put an end to her life. Occupied ſo materially about

the

the ſon, what aſſiſtance could I afford to the mother! I, however, divided my cares between them, as ſhe appeared to ſtand in almoſt equal need of them.

The negro having made a good fire, I ordered him to raiſe up the young man, before it, and to warm him by degrees, while, by ſhaking the mother, and ſprinkling cold water on her face, I brought her, at laſt to her ſenſes. I ſaid every thing in my power to comfort, and give her hopes; but ſhe remained ſtill inconſolable, and ſoon grew as ſick as if ſhe had been at ſea.

Her ſon began, at length, to recover; the cold had overpowered him in the night, which, joined to the weak habit he had been before reduced to, by ſickneſs and labour, had thrown him into a ſtate of lethargy, which muſt certainly have ended in death, if I had not luckily come, juſt at that inſtant, to his relief.

What

What a ſituation was mine, in theſe circumſtances! Abandoned on a deſert iſland, in want of every ſupport and aſſiſtance, encumbered with two helpleſs perſons, whom I could neither relieve nor forſake, and deſtitute of all manner of remedies, either for their weakneſs or diſorder, having only a few oyſters, ſome decayed roots, and vegetables, and a little cold water to ſupply them with.

And at what a critical time we were reduced to theſe unhappy circumſtances! at the very moment when our hopes were higheſt, of extricating ourſelves from our wretched condition of exiſtence, and of flying to ſome happy ſpot of the earth, where we might expect to have met with the ſolace and comforts of humanity!

There was no thinking of ſetting out on our voyage this day; both the mother and ſon were too ill and weak to attempt

attempt it, as their deaths appeared to be the immediate conſequence. To leave them behind was a thought which ſhocked my mind, and which my heart was therefore incapable of; and yet to abide with them, appeared to be only to expoſe myſelf to further miſeries and diſappointments, which could finally terminate in no other redemption but death alone, by hazarding the deſtruction of this ſecond raft, and ſeeing it wrecked at ſea before my eyes.

This laſt idea, which my former experience had given me ſo ſtrong an apprehenſion of, [illegible]tracted my mind and perplexed my reſolves, to ſuch a degree, as no reaſon could combat, nor reſolution conquer; and every thought, ſcheme, or reflection, only ſeemed to increaſe the difficulties of my purpoſes.

But

But this hesitation did not disturb me long; I determined to fulfil the obligations of humanity, and submitted my fate, at length, to all the hazards that must necessarily attend my staying with these unhappy objects; I surrendered myself up a victim on the altar of compassion, and put my trust in the great Deity of benevolence, for my redemption.

I then ran down to the sea-side, and brought away the provisions we had confided to the raft. My heart bled inwardly at the sight of this our last and only hope, which perhaps in a few hours might be snatched from us, for ever; I endeavoured to moor it in such a manner as might better enable it to resist the raging of the sea, if a second storm should assail us; I took away the mast, sail, and cordage, in short, every thing that we could not repair upon a second wreck, and laid them

them by in a ſafe place, beyond the reach of the waves; but the blanket particularly I brought up to our invalids, who needed the comfort of it in their weakly ſtate.

I ſpent the reſt of the day in aſſiſting and comforting the mother and the ſon, doing and ſaying every thing in my power that I thought might ſtrengthen and encourage them, and remove all obſtacles to our departure.

The grief of Madame la Couture, and her fears about her ſon, were the ſole cauſe of her diſorder; theſe I contrived to diſſipate in part, not in giving her hopes that I had not myſelf, being thoroughly perſuaded that he could not recover, but by inſpiring her with reſolution to bear the misfortune, and a perfect reſignation to the will of Heaven.

I thought it better thus to prepare her for the event I expected, and which I appre-

prehended would happen before the next morning, than to amuſe her with inſincere hopes; for indeed he was reduced by this time to the moſt deplorable ſituation imaginable; he had wholly recovered his ſenſes, but his feebleneſs was ſo great that he was obliged to lye ſtretched on the ground, in his blanket; his limbs could not ſupport his body, either to ſtand, or ſit up, and it was with the utmoſt difficulty he was enabled to turn himſelf from one ſide to the other.

I lay awake that whole night, by his ſide, watching to lend him any aſſiſtance he might ſtand in need of; nor did he cloſe his eyes, but ſpoke to me frequently, returning me thanks for my kindneſs and attentions, and regretting extremely his happening to be the cauſe of retarding our voyage.

I never in my life heard any thing ſo tender and affecting, as the expreſ-

ſions

ſions this poor young man addreſſed to me, on this melancholy occaſion. He had an excellent natural underſtanding, with a quick and deep ſenſibility, and a ſpirit and firmneſs of mind far beyond his years.

About break of day he found himſelf growing worſe; and I had the precaution to keep his mother at a conſiderable diſtance from him, that ſhe might not ſee him in his laſt agonies. This is a ſpectacle that is ſhocking to common ſpectators, what muſt it be to a parent! I knew well that all the fortitude I had taken ſuch pains to inſpire her with, would have failed her at ſuch a ſight, which has double the effect on our minds that the mere hearing of it has.

The young man exerting all his ſtrength ſpoke to me thus: "Accept, "Sir, my thanks for all the kindneſs "you have ſhewn me; and pardon the

"anxiety

" anxiety and trouble I have given you,
" which can now no longer ſoothe or
" ſerve me. I feel the hour of death
" approaching.—I ſhall never quit this
" iſland, and were Heaven to prolong
" my days, I could not accompany
" you in your voyage; my legs refuſe
" their ſupport, and can no longer
" bear me; were I even arrived on the
" continent, they have not ſtrength to
" convey me from the borders; and
" habitations are rarely found upon the
" coaſts. I muſt then be left in the
" woods, a prey to wild beaſts, and
" experience dangers ſtill more dread-
" ful, than I have already ſuſtained.

" Let me adviſe you, (ſaid he, after
" a ſhort pauſe) to be gone; take the
" advantage of the preſent moment,
" and the raft you have prepared, if,
" that ſhould be loſt, you have no o-
" ther means of relief." Then preſſing my hand between his, the tears ſtart-

ing

ing from his eyes: "Take with you, "(ſaid he,) take my dear mother; the "knowing that ſhe is under your care "ſhall yield a conſolation to my lateſt "moments. Leave me what proviſions "you can ſpare; if Heaven ſhould yet "lend me life a little longer, I may "want them. When you are arrived "in any place of ſafety, you will not "forget me, but will have the huma-"nity, I doubt not, to return hither "again, and to afford me that ſuccour "and relief that I muſt certainly ſtand "in need of, ſhould I be found yet "alive; or piouſly ſupply the rites of "ſepulture, ſhould you, as moſt proba-"ble, find me dead.

"Make no reply, (ſaid he, perceiv-"ing I was about to interrupt him,) "what I require is juſt; the uncertain "hope of ſeeing me in a condition to "accompany you, ought not to make "you riſk the certain danger of pe-

" riſhing with me,—no; I will die,
" alone.—Dear friend, be gone, pro-
" tect my mother; hide from her the
" condition I am reduced to, and the
" counſel I have given.—Comfort her,
" —and depart."

I ſtood mute and aſtoniſhed, during his diſcourſe; a thouſand ideas ruſhed confuſedly into my mind, tho' all concurring in this one, that our deliverance depended on following his advice; and cruel neceſſity urged me to comply, while humanity, compaſſion, and tenderneſs, oppoſed it. Agitated by theſe different emotions, I claſped him in my arms, whilſt my flowing tears bedewed his dying face. I applauded his fortitude, and exhorted him to preſerve in it, to the laſt moment; and parted from him without rendering him ſtill further unhappy, by mentioning the ſtate of irreſolution I yet remained in, about following the

counſel he had ſo ſtrongly and generouſly recommended to me.

When I retired I was wholly wrapped up in reflections on his diſcourſe; I admired it, and thought, with horror, that we muſt unavoidably periſh all together, if I delayed to undertake the adventure he had pointed out to me; and yet the idea of abandoning him in ſo forlorn a ſituation, ſhocked my humanity, and ſuſpended my reſolve. I could have borne him on my ſhoulders to the raft, and have given him every aſſiſtance, during the paſſage; but then what was to become of him, on our landing? We could carry him no further; and where could we repoſe him then, with ſafety? His ſtate in the iſland was attended with leſs dangers, than thoſe to which he muſt be neceſſarily expoſed, in this journey: here was no wild beaſt to fear, and ſome

conveniencies were already provided for him.

Dwelling on this idea, for ſome time, my mind became more familiar with it, and by degrees the thought of leaving him behind me, began to appear leſs repugnant to my feelings. My own preſervation, his mother's alſo, our inevitable deſtruction, in the preſent circumſtances of our fate appeared to be a ſufficient diſpenſation from attending one moment longer to any other conſideration.

I flattered myſelf that our voyage would be ſhort; and that we ſhould preſently arrive at ſome inhabited part of the continent, where I might find a boat and ſuch aſſiſtance as would enable me to return immediately, and reſtore him to his mother's arms. This proſpect, however improbable in itſelf, appeared then to the warmth of my

my hopes and wiſhes, to be no unlikely event. And yet, notwithſtanding ſuch a reflection, I could not bring myſelf to put my reſolves into execution, all that day.

In the evening I returned to the young man again, who reproved my delay, in the moſt affecting terms: "If, "(ſaid he,) your ſtay here could pro- "cure me even a reſpite from death, I "might not, perhaps, oppoſe it; but "your beſt efforts cannot avail me, "now. I may, perhaps, linger out a "day, or two, longer, while another "ſtorm may ariſe, and carry off the "float, on which your only truſt de- "pends at preſent. You will then la- "ment in vain that you had not tak- "en my advice; and your diſtreſs "will be the more aggravated, by find- "ing that your delay has neither af- "forded me conſolation, or aſſiſtance. "I ſhall then expire before my dear

" mother's eyes, and carry with me to
" the grave the melancholy aſſurance
" that ſhe will not long ſurvive me. In
" the mean time I ſhall leave her over-
" whelmed with ſorrow, and deſpair;
" every object in this place, which ſhe
" can then have no hope of ever quit-
" ting, will revive my image to her
" mind, and renew the ſource of her
" griefs, which abſence, time, and
" change of place may ſerve to weaken
" and relieve. Take the advantage of
" this night, to make your prepara-
" tions, collect your proviſions toge-
" ther, leave me the ſmalleſt portion
" of them, and depart at dawn of day;
" do not diſturb my mother, till you
" are ready to embark; ſuffer her to
" imagine that I am no more, and that
" you would remove her from a ſight
" that might diſtract her; leave her
" ſtill in this error, but endeavour to
" conſole her, under it."

The

The ſtate in which I beheld this young man, his amazing compoſure of mind, with the urgent neceſſity we were under, at laſt determined me. I took the coverlet he had over him, and gave him, in its ſtead, a ſurtout I had on; I ſtripped myſelf alſo of my waiſtcoat, and put it on him, leaving him accommodated with every thing that it was then in my power to provide him with.

While I was ſetting up my maſt, to which I faſtened the coverlet, by way of ſail, the negro collected for us a large quantity of ſhell-fiſh, which ſoon compleated my little cargo of ſuſtenance. I took ſome of them and dried them by the fire, which, with what other aliments I could procure, I placed within the reach of La Couture. The ſpring was now advanced, the nights were no longer cold, and

fire therefore became leſs neceſſary to him.

I then laid myſelf down to reſt, for ſome hours, waiting for that of my departure, but could not ſleep; ſo that I paſſed the time in converſing with the poor invalid, who repoſed as little as I, and who made the moſt generous efforts on himſelf, all the while, in perſuading me to bear our ſeparation with fortitude, and requeſting, at the cloſe of every period, that I would comfort and protect his mother; but the violence he did himſelf, in this exertion of his ſtrength and ſpirits, overcame him, at laſt, and an hour before day he appeared to be deprived of all ſenſe and motion.

My utmoſt endeavours could not bring him to himſelf, and I gave him up for dead. I muſt confeſs that I thought this an happy releaſe to him,

and

and a conſolation alſo to myſelf, as I ſhould now be able to quit him without any manner of regret; but at day-break I perceived he yet breathed, tho' he remained ſtill ſpeechleſs, and ſeemed to be in the laſt agonies of death. I left him, however, all the neceſſaries I could; I filled the ſhells of the oyſters with freſh water, and placed them ſo near him, that ſhould he ever happen to recover ſtrength enough to need it, he might not want refreſhment; not that I had the leaſt hope, in ſo doing, that he could ever ſurvive to a ſtate capable of receiving benefit from my care.

Having thus done all in my power towards his preſervation, I recommended him in my prayers to Heaven, and then went to take charge of his mother, whom I awaked, with ſome difficulty. "Madam (ſaid I, haſtily), we "muſt be gone; Heaven ordains it,

" and 'tis our duty to ſubmit to its de-
" crees. Let us haſten from hence,
" time preſſes, and a moment's delay
" may be irreparable."——" Ah, (cried
" ſhe out) my ſon is no more!—my
" huſband dead!—all, all is loſt!"—

Here ſhe ſtood ſilent, while floods of tears ſupplied the place of leſs expreſſive words; nor did I attempt to ſtop their natural courſe; but led her immediately to our raft, to which ſhe made not the leaſt reſiſtance. I feared ſhe would have aſked to ſee her ſon, which might, perhaps, have ruined our deſign, by retarding our voyage, for another day, and have rendered her incapable, alſo, of undertaking it, at all, by depriving her of the ſtrength which was ſo neceſſary for her to preſerve, on ſo trying an occaſion; but happily ſhe had no idea but that her ſon was far beyond all human care; and, indeed, I was myſelf ſo fully

aſſured

aſſured of it, that, in addreſſing my prayers to Heaven, while I guided the float; I recommended his departed ſoul, as well as our ſafety, to its Providence.

It was on the 19th of April, if my memory fail me not, that we left the iſland; and, after twelve hours ſail, happily reached the continent, without the leaſt accident or inconvenience, except that of labour and fatigue. The firſt thing we did was to thank the Supreme Being for our ſafe landing; we forſook the raft, after having taken out our proviſions, blankets, and cordage, and endeavoured to advance into the country; but found it impracticable, it being for the moſt part overflowed, which greatly diſtreſſed us, and evinced, that our troubles were not yet at an end, but purſued us alike, by ſea and land.

It was now ſun-ſet; the extreme wearineſs we ſunk under, and the fear of loſing ourſelves in the night, made us caſt about for ſome place of ſafety. We made choice of a piece of riſing-ground, which, by its eminence, preſerved us from the waters that every-where ſurrounded us: here were, alſo, ſeveral large trees, whoſe branches, now furniſhed with leaves, ſheltered us from the wind and dews. I took out my flint, which I never eat, drank, ſlept, or moved a ſtep, without, and ſtriking a light, preſently kindled a good fire, by which we ſat down, and ſupped on ſome of the proviſions we had brought with us.

Here we hoped to have paſſed the night in peace, as our fatigue had inclined our eyes to ſleep, and our limbs to reſt, which, indeed, we much wanted; but no ſooner had we repoſed ourſelves, than we were awakened with ſuch

ſuch dreadful howlings, as ſtruck our hearts with terror and diſmay; they ſeemed to anſwer each other, and encompaſs us on all ſides. 'Tis impoſſible to conceive the horror with which we were ſeized, expecting every moment to become a prey to theſe ferocious animals, that ſeemed to approach us nearer and nearer, as the din grew louder at every howl.

My negro, giving way to the firſt emotion of his fear, ran to a tree, which he climbed up into with inconceivable ſwiftneſs; Madame la Couture followed him inſtantly, wringing her hands, and begging him to aſſiſt her to gain the ſame aſylum; but his apprehenſion rendered him deaf to her cries, as it did her to my call; for in vain I intreated them both to return; in vain aſſured them that, by quiting the fire they had left the only place of ſecurity.

I then

I then ſoon heard a voice of terror, calling out to me, "Help! help! Mr. "Viaud, or I am loſt!" I immediately ſnatched up a brand out of the fire, my apprehenſion for her getting the better of all fears for myſelf, and flew to her aſſiſtance. By the light of my torch I perceived Madame la Couture running towards me with the utmoſt ſpeed, purſued by a monſtrous bear, who, at ſight of me, ſtopped ſhort. I advanced towards him, with trembling ſteps, my fire-brand in my hand; and having joined Madame la Couture, conducted her back unhurt; the bear ſending forth a hideous growl, but not daring to follow us.

I then endeavoured to convince her that our ſafety depended on ſtaying in this place; for that fire had always been found the beſt means of keeping off wild beaſts, who never ventured to approach it. The diſtance at which the

the bear kept from us, and the daunted look with which he eyed us, confirmed her in this opinion, and ſhe began to recover her courage again, when we received a new alarm.

The tree which the negro had climbed into, was at ſome diſtance from us; the extremity of his fear not permitting him to make a choice, though there were ſeveral nearer to us, which might have afforded him a ſafer, ſhelter. I looked directly towards the place where the cries proceeded, and by the light of our fire, which now blazed prodigiouſly, I ſaw the bear had reared itſelf up an end, againſt the very tree where this unfortunate boy had betaken himſelf for refuge, and was about to climb it.

I knew not which way to give him the leaſt aſſiſtance; but called to him to get to the higheſt, and moſt pliant boughs, that were at the ſame time

ſtrong

ſtrong enough to bear his weight, tho' too ſlight to ſupport this unwieldy animal, whoſe inſtinctive faculties are ſuch as direct them not to venture on any but the larger branches.

At the ſame time I threw ſeveral flaming faggots againſt the foot of the tree, in hopes to fright the beaſt from his purpoſe; which happily ſucceeded, at laſt: for having thrown them thick on each other, they burned together, with great fierceneſs, and formed a ſecond bon-fire, the blaze and ſmoak of which almoſt blinded the beaſt, who deſcending precipitately on the other ſide of the tree, quitted the field directly.

All hopes of ſleep or reſt, for this night, were now given over; our apprehenſions were continually kept awake, by the inceſſant howlings which ſurrounded us, and continued till morning: ſeveral bears approached near enough

for

for us, to diſtinguiſh their horrid forms; and ſome tygers appeared alſo in ſight, which, perhaps, magnified by our fears, appeared of a moſt enormous ſize; nay, there was one of them that advanced nearer to us, than any of the reſt, in defiance of our *paſſive* fire; but, upon my darting ſeveral lighted faggots at him, he retreated, after having ſent forth a moſt horrid howl, which was ecchoed back by all the other beaſts of the foreſt.

In order to ſecure ourſelves from any further viſits from ſuch horrid neighbours, we caſt about a number of flaming brands, asfar as our ſtrength could throw them, ſo as to form a ſort of torrid zone about our central fire. This expedient, by removing the beaſts at a greater diſtance from us, kept them out of our ſight, and, therefore, leſſened our fears. But then, as this was done at the expence of our bon-fire,

the wood that encompaſſed it was conſuming faſt, and we dreaded extremely, leſt it ſhould be all ſpent, before the morning's dawn.

But happily the night had been further advanced than we imagined, before our fire began to fail us; and the howlings, which had terrified us long, grew leſs and leſs; ſeemed to retire to a greater diſtance, every moment; and, at length, left not the leaſt echo of themſelves vibrating on the air, by the time that day appeared. The ſavage brutes, at its approach, retired into their dens, there to lye down and ſleep till night ſhould again ſet them at liberty to roam abroad for prey *.

I took the advantage of this favourable circumſtance, to gather in ſome

* Thou makeſt darkneſs that it is night, wherein all the beaſts of the foreſt do creep forth.

The ſun ariſeth, they gather themſelves together, and lay them down in their dens. PSALMS.

freſh

freſh fuel, and repair our fire; I then ſummoned my negro to aſſiſt me, whom it was with much difficulty I could prevail on to deſcend from the uppermoſt branch of the tree he had perched himſelf in, and who, when he came before me, appeared more dead than alive.

After the fear and fatigue of the night, we could not think of ſetting forward, before we had taken ſome repoſe, which we ſtood in great need of; and, at laſt, ventured to ſtretch ourſelves down before our fire; but the agitations of our minds prevented us from any perfect enjoyment of that bleſſing, and we ſlumbered rather than ſlept, till noon.

We then took a ſlight repaſt, which conſumed the remainder of our proviſions, and began our journey, tending eaſterly, in hopes of getting to St. Mark in the Apalachian moun-

tains, and meeting in our route with ſome of the ſavages, who might conduct us on our way, furniſh us with proviſions, or knock us on the head. This laſt was the worſt we had to apprehend, and we would ſooner prefer a ſudden death than chuſe to live as we had done too long before, paſſing from one misfortune to another, and expoſed to the periſhing with hunger, or ſupplying the wild beaſts of the foreſt with meals to aſſuage theirs.

Our weakneſs did not ſuffer us to go far, that day, our journey being only about an hour and an half's ſlow pace; we took care to halt, before our little ſtrength was quite exhauſted; the terrors of the night before warned us to uſe ſome time and precaution, in collecting a ſufficient quantity of wood for our fire. We gathered as much as we could get together, and pitched on a ſpot ſituated almoſt as our laſt ſtage had been.

After

After having conſtructed our principal pile, without lighting it, we fixed a dozen of others all round it, at about twenty yards diſtance from our centre, dividing the circle, into equal intervals. This was neceſſary to guard the approach, on all ſides, and was the only method we could deviſe, to defend us from the fury of the wild beaſts.

Fear was the firſt principle of our actions, which muſt have been very powerful in us, when it was ſuperior to the preſſing calls of hunger. We then began to look about for food of any kind; but the place we were in, as well as all we had paſſed through, was completely barren of all ſorts of nouriſhment: there were neither fiſh, roots, nor vegetables, fit for eating, to be found. We ſearched every-where, in vain; and thought ourſelves happy, at laſt, in meeting even with a pool of muddy water, which, however, had

not been ſtagnated, of which we drank plentifully; and this was all the meal we had to ſubſiſt on for the whole day.

As ſoon as the night fell, I ſtruck fire, and lighted up all our piles: I did not care to do this ſooner, becauſe there could be no danger till the howlings began; and that it was requiſite to manage our ſmall ſtock of fuel with the moſt ſparing oeconomy, to make it hold out till the next morning.

We then immediately laid ourſelves down to reſt, in order to ſecure ſome minutes ſleep, before the ſavage monſters ſhould come prowling through the plain, and rouſe us from our ſlumbers by their dreadful yells. They did not diſturb us till about midnight, and we ſlept ſoundly till then: our fatigues and weakneſs had induced ſuch an oblivion of our ſenſes, that it

prevented

prevented our hearing them, before, as I might well judge, from the horrid din which aſſailed our ears, the inſtant we awoke, that they muſt have been proclaiming war for ſome time, as they were got into full cry before we heard them.

We might imagine that all the ſavage beaſts, throughout the deſerts of this new world, had been gathered together, to terrify us with their howlings. The different ſpecies of animals were to be diſtinguiſhed by their cries; the roarings of the lions were eminently dreadful, above all the reſt, and danger appeared to approach us nearer than we had apprehended it, either of the nights before; for we ſeemed to be ſeparated from the beaſts themſelves, only by the narrow circle of our fires; which continued happily all in a blaze, and ſo prevented any of them from approaching us near enough to be ſeen;

which was a lucky circumſtance for us, as the diſmay, which ſuch a brutal thunder had thrown us into before, would have been ſo augmented, at the ſight of them, that one only appearing in view, would have killed us with affright.

Madame la Couture and the negro were in a ſhocking ſituation; I ſaw them ſeveral times faint quite away with fear, and called back again to life, by the howlings of the wolf, the churnings of the bear, the growlings of the tyger, or the roarings of the lion. My terror was certainly not inferior to theirs, and yet I pretended to encourage and hearten them, at firſt; but, while I was ſtriving to inſpire them with courage, I loſt my own: a cold ſweat bedewed all my limbs, and my crouching cloſe to the fire was the only thing that kept me from falling into a ſwoon.

The

The welcome morn at length arrived, and, by driving the beaſts back to their dens, relieved our alarms, which had hitherto ſuſpended the cruel ſenſations of hunger: but, as ſoon as our fears were abated, theſe began to operate to a ſevere degree. Thus were we fated to ſuſtain alternately, the moſt bitter ills of life, hunger and fear. But the neceſſity of food, under an impoſſibility of procuring it, is certainly the greateſt of them. We tried every thing we could lay our hands on, put it into our mouths, and ſpit it out as faſt again.

We could not think of lying down to reſt, as we had done the morning before; but marched forward, in hopes of meeting with ſome vegetable or other, fit to eat, and tried every plant in the deſert, but in vain. They were either dry heath, or leafleſs brambles whoſe ſtems were only a hard wood,

which we could ſcarcely ſet our teeth in, and which we could not prevail on ourſelves to ſwallow the juice of, after we had chewed them.

Every experiment we made failed equally of ſucceſs, forced tears from our eyes, and ſunk us to the utmoſt depth of deſpair. Toward evening we arreſted our courſe, oppreſſed with the agonies of grief, and without the leaſt ability to proceed one ſtep further: we laid ourſelves down on the ground, doubtful whether we ſhould ever be able to raiſe our limbs from it, again; waiting for death, and praying for it, with fervency, as the only hope we had to terminate our unexampled miſery.

The negro, who was as weak as we, but animated by the rage of hunger, ſtarted up, ran to a tree that he had been looking earneſtly at, for ſome time, and gathering handfulls of the leaves, devoured them with a greedineſs

dineſs that ſurpriſed us, and made me conclude, that they muſt be of a delicious flavour. The idea that they might ſerve for food, encouraged our appetite; and we followed the negro, to the tree, and partook of his eager repaſt.

Our hunger and our hopes ſupplied theſe leaves with a ſavour that they had not in themſelves, and we ſwallowed them as voraciouſly, as the ſlave had done; but, finding that this vegetable only filled our ſtomachs, without feeding them, after having eaten a tolerable quantity of them, we became afraid of venturing further, on ſuch a doubtful meal, and retired from the tree *.

After this experiment we prepared for our ſecurity during the night, and

* The tendrils, or ſpring-ſhoots of trees, were were the ſuſtenance of St. John, in the wilderneſs, rendered *locuſts*, in the Engliſh tranſlation of the Bible; and thence miſtaken for the inſect of that name.

employed

employed ourſelves in heaping up piles of wood for our fires, as before; which was no very difficult taſk, as we found a ſufficient quantity of dry timber near the place we had determined to ſojourn in till morning; we ſoon finiſhed our work, and ſat down in the middle of it, waiting till the cloſing of the day ſhould oblige us to light the heaps.

But we had hardly repoſed ourſelves for an hour, when we all of us found ourſelves extremely ſick; the leaves we had eaten gave us ſuch a convulſion in our bowels, that it was with difficulty we could writhe ourſelves along the ground, till we reached a neighbouring ſpring, of which we drank plentifully, but immediately felt our ſtomachs puffed up, almoſt to burſting; for, it ſeems that the vegetables we had ſwallowed, were of a ſpongy nature, and were ſwelled by the water. We forced ourſelves to puke

which

which diſcharged the load by degrees; but not without great agony and voiding of blood.

We lay ſtretched by the ſpring, for a conſiderable time, without ſtrength or motion, incapable of removing ourſelves from it, and expecting to expire every moment; the ſetting ſun left us in this helpleſs ſituation, and the night had far advanced upon us, before we were in a condition to ſtir. We lamented at not being able to return to our piles to light them up; we expected every inſtant that the wild beaſts would come to devour us, and this terror but increaſed our weakneſs. We ſighed, we wept, we murmured our complainings, but had not ſtrength enough to utter them aloud.

The night having been now far ſpent, augmented our dread; we tried again to creep on our knees and hands to our aſylum, and after the utmoſt

efforts, we at laſt reached it; but ſo enfeebled, that it was with the greateſt difficulty I was able to ſtrike a light from my flint, the ſparks of which were received on a piece of cloth that Madame la Couture was obliged to tear off from her ſhift; and even after this was done, I almoſt deſpaired of communicating the flame to ſome dry chips and leaves that had been before prepared for this purpoſe; our breath was too weak to blow it up; but at length we had the good fortune to ſet fire to our principal pile, after an infinite deal of almoſt hopeleſs labour.

The horrid din which we had been uſed to the preceding nights, began now to ſtrike our ears, at a diſtance; we felicitated each other at the ſight of our bonfire, which was ſo neceſſary to our ſafety; and to ſecure ourſelves ſtill further, it was neceſſary to light up the other heaps of wood that

we

we had encircled the firſt with. We made new efforts for that purpoſe, we divided the toil among us, and each taking two burning faggots in our hands, ſet fire to the piles, one after another.

The fear we were poſſeſſed with, ſerved to animate our minds, and ſupplied ſufficient ſtrength to our bodies, to execute this neceſſary work, in leſs time than I thought it poſſible for our exhauſted powers to have effected it; and we had ſcarcely finiſhed our buſineſs, when the howlings from the deſart, reſounded from all ſides, and ſeemed to approach quite near to us.

I cannot reſiſt the impulſe I feel, even now, of repeating again the ſatisfaction and ſecurity we were ſenſible of, in having been able, ſo critically, to illuminate our *feux de joye*, as they might have been ſo emphatically deemed, at that inſtant. We had conſiderably augmented them, on that night,

and

and this circumſtance had therefore leſſened our apprehenſions. However they continued ſtill very powerful with us, becauſe they were increaſed by the additional feeble ſtate, both of our bodies and minds, occaſioned by our fatigues, watchings, and ſevere hunger.

Even the food we had attempted, had reduced our ſtrength ſtill more than faſting could have done, as it but added ſickneſs to famine, and deſpair to difficulty. However, before the morning's dawn we fell into a ſlumber, and ſo received relief from our very weakneſs.

We did not awake, 'till towards noon, and felt ourſelves but little refreſhed from our ſleep, and miſerably preſſed by our ſickly pains and loud calls of hunger. We looked up at the tree we had ſo madly fed upon, the day before, with an horror and diſguſt ſtronger ſtill than even the rage of appetite, as it had brought us

nearer

nearer death, than famine itſelf would have done.

We then aroſe to purſue our uncertain journey, in hopes of being able to meet with ſome ſort of aliment, in our way, to recruit our ſinking ſpirits; we made trials, as uſual, on every new ſpecies of plant, root, or vegetable, we could pick up, but with as little ſucceſs as heretofore; there was neither ſavour nor nouriſhment in any of them.

Our hunger increaſed every moment, but the hope of being able to aſſuage it, ſuſtained us every ſtep, and enabled us to travel on 'till the afternoon. We caſt our eyes around, but could ſee nothing to reſt our wearied ſight upon, but a boundleſs and barren waſte, extending on all ſides. At length we arrived at a piece of riſing-ground, where we expected to have a view of ſome fruitful ſpot, or hoſpi-

table village; but all was as dreary as before; nothing but an immenſe horizon, with the ſea on the right, a foreſt on the left, which ſtretched beyond our viſion, and before us a deſert plain, where nothing was to be diſtinguiſhed, but the traces and ordure of wild beaſts.

Such an horrid proſpect threw us into the moſt ſhocking ſtate of deſpair; our exhauſted ſpirits died within us; we no longer now thought of continuing our hopeleſs and uncertain route, in which we could not poſſibly foreſee any end to our wants and miſeries, except what we might have received upon the ſpot where we had then laid ourſelves down, from death alone.

However, we again aroſe, and directed our ſteps towards the foreſt, in further queſt of Providence: its thickneſs and gloom made us tremble; the trees ſtood ſo cloſe together, that there

were

were but few opens left for us to paſs through, and we had not proceeded many yards, in ſome of theſe paths, before we found them cloſe upon us; while we were wound about through others, to the very place we had firſt entered at; but one of them led us ſo far into the wood, that we ſoon loſt our way, without hope of being ever able to recover the plain again, and with a moral certainty of being there devoured by famine, or ſome beaſt.

None of theſe trees afforded any ſort of fruit that might have ſerved for food, the moſt of them bearing only the ſame ſort of leaves that had like to have poiſoned us before. "'Tis now "completely over with us, (cried I out, in a tranſport of grief,) "here muſt "we lay down our lives, our miſeries "are within a few hours of terminat- "ing themſelves."

I fell on the ground, as I uttered theſe words, Madame la Couture laid herſelf down by me, and the negro placed himſelf before us, but at a little diſtance. We all wept bitterly, without raiſing our eyes from the earth, and kept a ſad ſilence, buried in the moſt horrid reflections. We each of us foreſaw our immediate deſtruction, and had no new ſubject to conſult or adviſe one another upon.

In this diſmal moment the moſt ſhocking ideas preſſed upon my mind. "Was there ever another mortal, (cried I out,) "in a ſituation ſo totally de-"void of relief or hope, as we are?" The recollection then came a-croſs me, of ſome voyagers I had read of, where ſhips being driven out of their courſe, by ſtorms, and long detained by contrary winds, in unknown ſeas, 'till all their proviſions had been ſpent, the crews, after having ſuſtained

tained their hunger to the laſt extremity, were reduced to the ſhocking neceſſity of butchering ſome one amongſt them, for the ſupport of the reſt, and have caſt lots for the victim.

Dare I confeſs it to you, my friend? your blood will run cold within you at the continuance of my recital, but do me the juſtice to believe that your horror cannot poſſibly equal mine. Obſerve to what exceſs deſpair and hunger joined, may tranſport us, and pity the neceſſity, rather than condemn the action, to which my miſeries had now reduced me.

While the ſituation of theſe voyagers was running in my head, my roving eyes happened to fall upon the negro, though without deſign or direction; but they faſtened themſelves upon him, for ſome moments, with a greedineſs that I could not conquer, or reſiſt. "He is dying of famine already (ſaid I,

" with an emphaſis), and to rid him " of his languiſhment muſt be a " kindneſs to him; he is periſhing " piece-meal, and all our efforts can- " not relieve him; what then ſhould " forbid my rendering his death ſer- " viceable to thoſe of us that may ſur- " vive?"

This reflection, however cruel in itſelf, did not, at that inſtant, ſhock my humanity. My reaſon was impaired, my mind ſympathized with the weakneſs of my body, hunger had griped me in its talons, my bowels were at civil war within; and the irreſiſtible temptation of relieving myſelf from ſuch inſufferable agonies, was the only principle that could be liſtened to, in that dread moment.

All other means were now become impoſſible; there was but this alone to reſt upon. My diſtracted ſoul was rendered incapable of conſideration or reflection,

reflection, beyond the preſent evil; it poſſeſſed me with horrid purpoſes, and ſupplied me with ſufficient ſophiſtry to juſtify them. "What wrong ſhall I "be guilty of? continued I ſtill to ar- "gue with myſelf. This animal is "my intire property; I have bought "him, for my ſole uſe; and what "greater ſervice can his whole life ever "amount to, than relieving the miſe- "ries which now oppreſs me?"

Madame la Couture, agitated with the ſame inhuman ideas, ſeemed to overhear theſe laſt expreſſions; and, though ignorant of the chain of reflections which had led to them, the ſympathy of her feelings having ſufficiently explained them, ſhe called to me, in a feeble tone of voice; and, when I looked at her, ſhe turned her eyes upon the negro, and pointing to him with her hand, caſt a look at me, ſo full of horror and impatience, and

ſeconded by ſuch ſupplicating geſtures, as ſpoke her eagerneſs and wiſhes, ſtronger than it was in the power of ſpeech to have done.

I ſeemed to have waited for this encouragement; and, thinking myſelf further juſtified by her concurrence with my purpoſe, I heſitated no longer, but riſing up with precipitation, and ſeizing a knotty ſtaff, which I uſed to walk with on my marches, I ran at the wretched victim, who was then lying aſleep, and with a ſort of fury ſtruck him on the head with all the force that my reduced ſtrength could enable me to do.

He awakened at the blow, but was ſo ſtunned that he could not riſe up, which he attempted; and my up-lifted arm, now trembling, refuſed to repeat the ſtroke; my heart ſhook within me, as if looſened from my body, whilſt ſtruggling humanity unnerved every

ſinew that was neceſſary to complete the murder.

The unhappy wretch, recovering himſelf ſoon, had riſen upon his knees, and joining his hands together, with a terrified look and diſmayed accent, cried out, "What are you doing, my dear "Maſter? Have I offended you? Have "mercy on me; at leaſt, O ſpare my "life!"

Compaſſion now took the place of cruelty, and my tears fell faſter than his: for the ſpace of two minutes I ſtood motionleſs, without power to ſpeak or reſolve; but, at length, rage and hunger having ſtifled the voice of pity, a ſecond look and groan from my companion in diſtreſs, recalled my former fury; I became a wolf again, a crocodile, an hyæna! And thus diſtracted beyond the power of reaſon, I fell upon the miſerable wretch, preſſing him under me to the ground, and roaring

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ing out, at the ſame time, to increaſe my frenzy, and to ſmother his cries, which might poſſibly, as before, have ſtopped my bloody purpoſe; and, tying his hands behind his back, called out to my accomplice to aſſiſt me in this barbarous execution.

She came readily on the ſummons, and keeping down his head, while I lay along on the reſt of his body, I drew out my knife, and ſtriking it deep into his throat, ſoon put an end to all further ſtrife. I then laid the carcaſe acroſs a large tree, that happened to lye on the ground near us, in order to let the blood flow the more freely, and ſhe aſſiſted me in this work, alſo.

This action, with the violent agitations of madneſs which we had ſuſtained, during the perpetration of it, had quite exhauſted our ſtrength; and our reaſon began to return, only to load our conſciences with the moſt bitter

ter reproaches. We then ſat down upon the ground, for ſome time, to recover ourſelves a little, with our faces turned from the ſhocking ſpectacle deprived of life, in an inſtant, by our cruelty.

We now reflected, with the utmoſt horror, on the crime we had been guilty of; then ſtarting up, and haſtening to a ſpring, to waſh our bloody hands, which we could not look upon without the extremeſt terror and contrition, we lifted them up to Heaven, firſt falling on our knees, in fervent ſupplication for pardon of our inhuman deed, and daring alſo to prefer our prayers, at the ſame time, for the ſoul of our late departed ſacrifice.

What extremes and contradictions there are in the nature of man! What an oppoſition of ſentiment actuates us, ſometimes, almoſt in the ſame inſtant! Piety immediately ſucceeded to our barbarity,

barity, and, vindicating her rights, ſuſpending for a while, even the preſſing and inceſſant demands of hunger. "Great God! (we jointly cried out) "thou ſeeſt our ſituation and intoler- "able miſeries! Theſe were the authors "of the murder that our hands have "been compelled to commit. Have "mercy, good Lord, on the penitence "of two unhappy wretches! Bleſs, "at leaſt, the horrid meal we are about "to partake of, and ſuffer that food to "ſuſtain our bodies, for which our "minds have already paid ſo dear." After this prayer, we roſe up, lighted a large fire, and conſummated, in fine, our ſavage action by a cannibal feaſt.

How have I dared to enter into ſuch a detail as this? The ſole recollection of the ſtory ſhocks my memory. No, my friend, I never was a barbarian before. Alas! my

"nature

nature is far diſtant from cruelty or inhumanity. You know me too well to need any juſtification of myſelf to you. You ſhould, therefore, be my only reader; and I would ſuppreſs this part of my narrative, if I thought I was ever to have any other.

What an idea would they be apt to form of my character! Of what atrocious action would they not think me capable! It is after the privation of my reaſon, occaſioned by the ſevereſt miſeries, that they would probably pretend to judge of me; few would be candid enough to take my misfortunes into the ſcale, and conſider that both the exceſs, and the ſpecies of them, were heavy enough to overballance the beſt natural diſpoſitions of the human heart; and that, therefore, the neceſſity of a ſinful action

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in ſuch circumſtances ought never to be imputed to us as a crime.

Thoſe who have but a general acquaintance with human nature, neither know the extreme of virtue, or the exceſs of vice, that the ſoul of man is capable of, as generous occaſion, or harſh neceſſity call forth its utmoſt exertion.

As ſoon as our pile was lighted, I cut off the head of the negro, and faſtening it to the end of a ſtick, turned and roaſted it before the fire; but our impatience did not ſuffer us to wait till it was quite done; for we began to devour it when it was but little more than warmed through. After we had thus allayed the rage of hunger, we prepared for paſſing the night in the place we were, and defending ourſelves, as uſual, againſt the wild beaſts. We expected that their approach would prevent our ſleep-

ing, and we were not diſappointed. We, therefore, employed ourſelves till day-break, in cutting up the negro into quarters and joints, and hanging it in the ſmoke of our fire, to dry and preſerve it, for want of ſalt.

The agonies that we had ſo lately been reduced to, by famine, made us dread our being expoſed to the ſame again; we endeavoured, therefore, to make uſe of the beſt oeconomy in our power, to make our proviſions hold out as long as we could. We therefore reſted the next day, and the following night, on the preſent ſpot, in order to complete our houſewifry; during which time we were extremely parſimonious of our aliment, eating nothing but thoſe ſcraps or pieces, that we thought might ſooneſt turn to putrefaction. We made ſeveral parcels of the reſt, which we tied up in what handkerchiefs we had left, and in pieces

torn

torn off from our cloaths, which we faſtened on our backs with the cordage of our float.

On the 28th of April, or thereabouts, as near as I could then compute, we ſet forward on our journey. The remaining ſo long in one place, had ſufficiently repoſed our limbs; the nouriſhment we had taken, for theſe two days, had repaired our ſtrength; and the certainty of not feeling hunger for a conſiderable time to come, ſupplied us with the courage of attempting our way through the middle of the foreſt, which had appeared ſo deſperate an undertaking, on our firſt entrance into it.

We marched forward, but with a ſlow pace, and [illegible]rly regretting the loſs of our fo[illegible]llow-traveller, whoſe miſerable re[illegible]s we were then both incumbered with. We journeyed, for ſeveral days, with great difficulty and

and fatigue, ſometimes labouring thro' ſtrong high bulruſhes, at other times through brambles, thorns, and various kinds of prickly plants, that tore our legs, and cut our feet in ſuch a manner as occaſioned great loſs of blood, to weaken us ſtill further.

This diſtreſs, though leſs miſerable than hunger, retarded us conſiderably, and the ſtings of the muſkitos, of ſand-flies, and an armed hoſt of other winged inſects, peculiar to that climate, had diſfigured us ſo much, that it was impoſſible for either of us to diſtinguiſh a feature in the other; our faces, our hands, and legs being ſo ſwelled, with the venom of their bite.

In order to rid ourſelves of ſuch troubleſome enemies, we thought it beſt to get from among the trees that harboured them, and travel along the ſea-ſide, for the future, in hopes of meeting ſome kind of food there, which

might enable us to ſpare the ſmall ſtock of proviſions we had now remaining; and, accordingly, at the firſt opening that pointed towards the right, we directed our courſe that way, and happily reached the ſhore.

We were not quite diſappointed in our expectation; for, when the weather was fair and the tide out, we met with ſome cockles, and a few ſmall flounders, which we hooked up out of the water, with a ſort of harpoon I had made of a branch of a tree, crooked and pointed at the end. But of ſuch food we never could procure ſufficient, at any one time, for a meal; and but ſeldom had the good fortune to hit upon it. It was, however, ſome little relief to us, and for which we moſt gratefully returned our thanks to Providence.

I cannot give you, day by day, an account of this difficult and fatiguing journey,

journey, the end of which ſeemed to be ſtill further off, the longer we travelled. The ſea-reeds, which ſpread all along the coaſt, gave us as much labour to paſs through, as the thorns and brambles of the foreſt. They were ſtrong and dry, and numbers of them being broken by the wind, fell acroſs, and intangled our legs, almoſt at every ſtep.

The wild beaſts kept us in terror, every night; to which was added the horror of our very meals, as we never eat till we had finiſhed our journey for the day, and lighted up our fires. Our firſt ravenous hunger having been appeaſed, our minds had recovered their original tone; and we were ſhocked to the laſt degree, at being obliged to ſwallow ſuch inhuman food. We never could taſte a morſel of this horrid ſuſtenance, till we were reduced to the laſt neceſſity, could meet with

no other ſort of proviſion, and that the returning cravings of hunger had, in ſome meaſure, conquered our diſguſt.

One evening, when we came to our uſual halt, I felt myſelf ſo extremely feeble, that I had ſcarce ſtrength enough to gather ſufficient wood for our principal pile; but found it utterly impoſſible to provide the ſeveral leſſer heaps for the circle with which I always uſed to ſurround it; for my limbs were become ſo ſwelled and bloated, that I was no longer able to ſtand.

It happily, at the ſame inſtant, occurred to me, that I could more effectually ſupply this exigence, by ſetting fire to the reeds and broom around us, and which the wind would aſſiſt in extending on all ſides. This would ſerve to keep the beaſts at a ſtill greater diſtance, and afford us likewiſe this further advantage, that by deſtroying theſe impediments in our way,

way, we might be enabled to purſue our future journeys, with the leſs delay, by marching in that road that had been cleared for us by the fire.

This ſcheme anſwered to our utmoſt expectation; for, the next day, we found every obſtacle of this kind removed, as far as our ſight could reach, and our route marked out and cleared from all obſtructions, more effectually by the fire, than a thouſand pioneers could have done. This made me regret that ſo obvious a thought ſhould never have occurred to me before, which would have ſaved us from the wounds, pain, and delays, we had hitherto ſuffered, and which had ſo greatly ſhortened our former marches.

But happily, in this inſtance, Providence kindly ſupplied the deficiency of my dulneſs, in a way peculiar to itſelf, which often makes

difficulties and misfortunes ſerve to quicken our apprehenſions, and ſo provide relief to themſelves.

We met alſo, on our next day's journey, with a new ſort of proviſion, that was extremely palatable and nouriſhing to us. It was two rattleſnakes, whereof one had fourteen, and the other twenty-one ſcales, or joints, in its tail, which are ſaid to mark their age, if it be true that one grows, every year, as is affirmed. They were very large; the fire had ſurrounded them when aſleep, and ſuffocated them. Thoſe reptiles ſufficiently ſupplied us with freſh food, for this day and the next, having firſt cut off the heads where the poiſon lies; and we dried the remainder of them in the ſmoke of our fire, and added it to the reſt of our viaticum*.

* Travelling proviſions.

In

In the courſe of our marches, I had the luck to meet with a further addition to our proviſions. One morning, I happened to ſpy a large cayman *, a ſpecies of the crocodile kind, of about twelve feet in length, aſleep, in a pool of water near to where I paſſed along. I ſtopped immediately, to ſurvey it; nor did the view of this monſter affect me with ſo much terror as might naturally be imagined, though I was not ignorant how dangerous an animal it is. The only idea that ſtruck me, at firſt, was, that if I could kill it, its fleſh would yield us a conſiderable increaſe to our itinerant ſtores. I heſitated, ſome moments, before I attacked it; but it was not fear that ſtopped my hand, it was only a doubt about the ſureſt manner of attempting it.

* This animal is more generally known by the name of *Tacare*; and breeds in the Braſils, as well as in America.

I then advanced to the verge of the lake, with my ſtaff in my hand, which was a piece of hard heavy wood, with which I diſcharged three ſtrokes on its head, as quick and forcibly as my ſtrength and activity could enable me. This ſtunned the creature ſo much, that though it rouſed him, it left him neither power to ſpring upon me, nor to fly.

It only opened its dreadful jaws, through rage and agony, into which I immediately darted the end of my ſtaff, that was ſharp pointed, and piercing it through its throat, ſtaked it down to the ground, ſtanding at the other extremity of the ſpear, myſelf, which I held bent towards me. The monſter made ſuch violent efforts, by its bounds and contortions, through pain and fury, that if my weapon had not been remarkably tough, and forced deep into the earth, it would have been

been impoſſible to have reſiſted its convulſions, and I ſhould ſoon perhaps have become a victim to my raſhneſs.

I exerted all my ſtrength to keep it pinned down, in this manner, and was in ſuch a poſition that it had been dangerous to have changed it, for the purpoſe of finiſhing its deſtruction; therefore I called out to Madame la Couture, who had kept aloof, from the firſt, intreating her to come to my aſſiſtance; but ſhe dared not venture near enough: however ſhe threw me a club, of between three and four foot long, which I took in one hand, while I held down the ſtaff in the other, and ſoon completed my conqueſt over this formidable enemy.

As ſoon as the animal had ceaſed all further ſtruggling, my companion recovering her courage, came up to me, and having both her hands at liberty, took the club from me, now

almoſt

almoſt ſpent, and continued the bruiſes, 'till ſhe had beaten its head into a mummy; after which ſhe ſevered its tail from the body.

This triumph coſt me vaſt fatigue, hazard and labour, but ſufficiently repaid my pains. We gave over all thought of purſuing our journey further, that day, as ſo large a carcaſe afforded us full employment for the reſt of it, in preparing it for our travelling larder, in the ſame manner as we had cooked our former proviſions.

We firſt dreſſed about three pounds of this animal, for our preſent meal, and then cut the remainder of it into ſmall pieces, of about the ſame ſize, that they might be the ſooner dried and ſmoaked for future uſe. We made ſhoes, ſuch as the ſavages wear, of the ſkin, for us both, and rolled ſome other parts of it round our legs, like boots, to defend us from the ſtings of

inſects which had diſtreſſed us ſo much before; we made gloves of it too, and alſo maſks for our faces, which tho' very troubleſome, at firſt, yet finding them a ſufficient ſhield againſt the attacks of theſe poiſonous vermin, we became ſoon reconciled to the wearing of them.

Theſe were the ſeveral uſes we applied our cayman to, and the remainder of this day and the ſucceeding night were wholly occupied in theſe preparations, againſt our next morning's march, which we commenced as ſoon as dawn appeared, and the howlings ceaſed. We did not lay ourſelves down to ſleep, before we ſet out, as was uſually our cuſtom, but truſted to the following night for that repoſe which our preſent fatigue required. We feared to prolong our journey, by too frequent ſtoppings and delays, which had been already too much re-

tarded by the ſhort marches we had been hitherto reſtrained to, by the ſeveral impediments we had met with in our courſe.

The next day our journey was interrupted, for about an hour, by a river that ran a-croſs the road into the ſea. It was not broad, but it's current was extremely rapid. I tried if we could ford it, by pulling off my cloaths, and going in to ſound it; but found the paſſage impracticable, from the depth of the water, which prevented my wading through it, and had I attempted to ſwim over, the violence of the ſtream, which no ſtrength could ſtem, would have hurried me along with it into the ocean.

But had it been in my power to have got the better of theſe difficulties, the poor woman could not poſſibly have been able to encounter them. So that I returned and dreſſed myſelf,

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in the moſt abject dejection of mind that can be conceived. There was then no other meaſure to take than to travel along by the ſide of the river, towards its ſource, and make further eſſays on it where we might find the current more gentle, or ſome ſhallow that might render the fording of it practicable.

We then proceeded in this direction, and continued it for two intire days, without perceiving any place that afforded us the leaſt probability of compaſſing our end, for the further we went the more dangerous the attempt ſtill appeared to be. Our inquietude and deſpondency increaſed with our difficulties, and we even began to deſpair of ever being able to get out of this deſert.

We had not the good fortune to meet with any manner of aliment, during theſe two days progreſs, and we were

were conſequently obliged to feed upon this cayman, reſerving ſtill the unhappy negro's fleſh for the laſt extremity, as being the food that would keep the longeſt. We trembled at the apprehenſions of exhauſting all our proviſions, before we might be lucky enough to reach to any inhabited ſpot of the earth, where we could be able to procure a freſh ſupply.

Terrified at the paſt, diſtreſſed with the preſent, diffident of the future, and impatient at the obſtinate continuance of our misfortunes, we paſſed the diſmal hours in faint hopes, heavy ſighs, and then cloſing our reflections in abſolute deſpair. The continual view of a river always rapid, added to the wearineſs of our minds; the impoſſibility of paſſing it, with the neceſſity, however, of ſtill marching forward, quite out of our purpoſed courſe, without the leaſt proſpect of meeting with a

fordable

fordable paſſage, now finally damped all the ſpirit and courage we had yet been able to preſerve through all our unexampled miſeries.

Toward the latter end of the ſecond day, while we were tracing the ſource of this river, I happened to turn up a tortoiſe, which might have weighed about ten pounds. This precious gift of Providence ſuſpended the murmurs which uſed to eſcape us every minute before, and changed them into acclamations of gratitude. We had ſeen, the former day, a large hen-turkey come down and drink at the ſtream near us, and we concluded that it had its neſt ſomewhere thereabouts. The hope of diſcovering its eggs made us ſearch every where, for a mile or two round the place; but in vain. This diſappointment ſeemed to increaſe our misfortunes, and made us ſtill more repine at our deſtiny.

But

But the luck of meeting with the tortoiſe reconciled us a little to fortune, and we prepared to feaſt upon it, directly. Our pile was formed, and I was going to ſet fire to it, when to my utter conſternation, and inexpreſſible grief, I could not find the flint! I ſearched all my pockets, turned them out, opened all our parcels of proviſions, and looked and felt in every fold of them, with the cloſeſt ſcrutiny. Madame la Couture aſſiſted, and examined every thing after me again, but it all availed not.

What were our diſtractions! proportioned, to be ſure, to our loſs, our now irreparable misfortune. Did ever man ſuſtain a greater! We then regarded the tortoiſe that we had juſt diſcovered with an extreme of joy, as but a common pebble, which we would then moſt gladly have exchanged for any flint, and given the half of our proviſions

ſions to boot. For how, without its aſſiſtance, could we prepare our food, guard us from the nightly cold and dews, and defend ourſelves from the ravening fury of wild beaſts! What a wretched couple were we two, at that inſtant! What a dreadful ſituation! If ever a guardian angel attended on human nature, its aid was neceſſary here!

I was certain that I could not have dropped the flint any where but in the place we had lighted up our fire, the night before, or on our road, this morning, from thence hither. Weak and weary as I was, I did not heſitate a moment, to trace my footſteps back again to the ſpot where our dying embers lay, to ſearch for it; I propoſed this to Madame la Couture, but left her at liberty to come along with me, or wait my return; and ſhe determined on the latter, as ſhe was too

feeble and exhauſted, to be able to walk either backwards or forwards, without taking more reſt than ſhe had had, for ſome time paſt.

She trembled, however, at the idea of being left alone, but her impatience about recovering our loſt treaſure being fully equal to mine, ſhe conſented to my going alone, depending on my moſt ſolemn aſſurances of not abandoning her in ſo deplorable a ſituation, and of returning to her with the utmoſt ſpeed, whether ſucceſsful in my errand, or not.

We had luckily not gone far that morning; about an hour and an half's walking having been the extent of our march; it was very early in the day and I was ſure of being able to be back in the evening, long before we need ſet up our reſt, for the night. But alas! I found this impoſſible; I was too weak to move faſt, and beſides

ſides I ſtood ſtill, at every ſtep of the way, to look about for the flint. I was in hopes that I had dropt it on ſome part of the road near where I had miſſed it, and that I ſhould have the happineſs to find it without being obliged to go all the way back to our laſt night's ſtage.

But I was cruelly diſappointed in this ſurmiſe, and after an unprofitable ſearch through every inch of the road we had paſſed this morning, I was led back again to the very ſpot we had halted at, night before, about the duſk of the evening, when I could hardly diſtinguiſh much larger objects than the one I was in queſt of. I kneeled down on the ground, in the very ſpot where we had reſted before, and looked and groped every where about; but in vain.

Diſcontented with fatiguing myſelf, to no purpoſe, I roſe up and haſtened

to the hearth, in hopes of meeting with ſome unextinguiſhed faggot to light up another fire, which might aſſiſt me in a further ſearch. But I found the cinders all cold, without a ſpark alive, in any of them.

Shocked at this new diſappointment, as if it had been quite unexpected, I threw myſelf down on the ground, in the utmoſt diſtraction of mind, deſpairing to redreſs myſelf where I was, or be able to rejoin Madame la Couture, that night, and without the leaſt thought, indeed, of attempting it; for to have ſtirred from the ſpot, without finding the flint, would have been madneſs; and I was therefore reſolved to continue there, 'till the return of day might enable me to ſearch for it, with better ſucceſs.

I then went and lay down on a heap of fern that we had gathered for a couch,

couch, the night before; and it occurred to me, juſt at that minute, that I might more probably have dropt my flint here, than any-where elſe on my route; I deliberated, for an inſtant, with myſelf, whether I ſhould not wait till I had ſufficient light to look for it. This appeared to be perfectly reaſonable, as I needed every kind of aſſiſtance to find ſo ſmall a ſubſtance, in the midſt of ſo large an heap; and to feel for it in the dark, would have been both loſs of time, and reſt.

Theſe reflections were extremely rational; but my impatience could not brook delay. I ſtroked my hands leiſurely over every inch of the ſurface of the bed, but met with nothing hard beneath them. When I began to do this, I deſigned to have troubled myſelf no farther, till the morning, when I might examine every ſprig of the heap, with more care, and perhaps, with ſucceſs;

but my impatience ſtill urged me on; I immediately roſe, and taking off the fern, layer after layer, ſhifted every handful of it through my fingers, and laid it by in another heap.

I ſpent moſt part of the night in this hopeleſs manner, and deſpaired of being ever able to find my treaſure, my taliſman; when, having removed every plant of the bed, and ſpreading my hands all over the ground where it had lain, I at laſt had the rapture to lay hold of the precious article I had been ſo long in ſearch of. I was ſo diſtracted with joy, that I could not contrive where about me I could guard it with the greateſt ſafety; and moſt piouſly vowed for the future never to ſuffer it to be one moment out of my ſight, or feeling, or thought.

During all this while you may well imagine the terror I muſt have undergone, of the wild beaſts; I had heard

their hideous yells for a conſiderable time before; but it ſeemed to be at a far greater diſtance than uſual. I was in dread not only for myſelf, but for my miſerable companion too, who was left alone, and whoſe horror muſt be extremely augmented by the darkneſs of the night. I, therefore, purpoſed immediately to return to her, if poſſible, to comfort and defend her; but confeſs that my fear of meeting with ſome miſadventure on the way, held my mind a long time in ſuſpence; and, in order to excuſe the want of heroiſm in myſelf, upon that occaſion, I conſidered that the conflagration I had ſpread all along the road we had travelled, for three nights paſt, and which had blazed far and wide about the country, muſt have frightened the wild animals to a ſafe diſtance from our route; and, in reality, ſince the firſt time of this lucky expedient, they had

never ventured within the reach of our longeſt ſight; and their howlings did not ſtrike our ears, but by their echos only.

And yet this very reflection, in which I had made an apology for my cowardice, ſerved to rouze my courage again. If there be little danger for her, there can be leſs for me. Upon this ſoliloquy I ſet out forthwith; but travelled, however, every ſtep of the way, in fear and trembling, and was frequently tempted to ſtop and light a fire, in my own defence. Panics are apt to remain, eſpecially in weak nerves, as mine then were, for ſome time after our reaſon has recovered from the fright.

I continued, however, my march in the dark, without interruption or delay; for fear had lent me ſpeed: and, notwithſtanding my feeble ſtate of body, I reached the ſpot where Ma-

dame

dame la Couture had crouched herſelf down, about two hours before day. I had like to have paſſed her by, as the obſcurity of the night, and the apprehenſions I ſtill laboured under, had rendered it impoſſible for me to mark the place I had left her in; but an heavy ſigh that reached my ear, and which, at firſt made me ſtart, informed me, that I was near her. She had heard the ſound of my feet, juſt at that inſtant, and, fearing it to proceed from the motion of ſome wild beaſt, coming to devour her, ſhe luckily ſent forth that moan which had ſtopped me on my march forward.

I called out to her, with a loud "voice, Is it you, Madam?" "Yes, "O yes! (ſhe replied, in an almoſt "fainting tone.) Good God! how you "have alarmed me, and what a miſe-"rable age of time has your departure "and delay occaſioned me to undergo!

"Move-

" Have you heard theſe horrid howl-
" ings? They have not ceaſed a mo-
" ment ſince the night commenced;
" and as I did not find you return
" when I had reaſon to expect you, I
" concluded, for a certainty, that you
" had been devoured by the wild beaſts;
" and that it was impoſſible for me to
" ſurvive you long."

" I am yet alive, thank God! (I
" cried) and I have the happineſs to
" find you ſo likewiſe; we are more
" than repaid for all our fears and fa-
" tigue; I have recovered my flint; let
" us immediately then ſet about making
" a comfortable fire, before which we
" may firſt take refreſhment, and then
" repoſe."

At theſe words we ſearched about for what ſticks and dry leaves were near at hand, and, gathering them into a heap together, ſoon lighted it up. A fragment of my ſhirt, that was worn almoſt

almoſt to lint, ſerved me for tinder, as it had done often before; though I ſometimes obliged Madame la Couture to furniſh her quota too, upon ſuch occaſions.

When we had lighted up a large fire, we broiled ſome of our tortoiſe, which we thought extremely ſweet and juicy. We found a number of ſmall eggs, when we opened the body of it, which we roaſted on ſome hot cinders, and which ſupplied us with an wholeſome and refreſhing meal, that was of infinite ſervice to us. We then ventured to lye down to ſleep and reſt, which we had the good fortune to indulge in, for about five hours, recruited our powers, both of body and mind.

On our awakening, we conſulted together, whether we ſhould continue the route we had taken, any further, or not. On conſidering the river, whoſe courſe

courſe was continued in a direct line, till it ſtretched beyond our view, we deſpaired of being able, during many days journey, to find a fordable paſſage acroſs; we, therefore, determined on attempting to get over, in the very ſpot where we then ſtood.

What encouraged us, at this time, was the obſerving half a dozen of old leafleſs trees, brought down by the ſtream, and which had been ſtopped in their courſe, near the bank, by another that the wind had bent down into the river. This timber appeared to be ſufficient for the framing a raft that might be able to carry us ſafely to the oppoſite ſide.

I then took off my cloaths, and waded into the water, which was not very deep near the margin; and, faſtening four of theſe trees together, which I thought might anſwer the purpoſe, by means of the rinds that I peeled off,

for this uſe, I drew them cloſe to the brink, and fixed alſo a long ſtaff to the end of the float, which might ſerve me occaſionally, either for oar or rudder.

This work being finiſhed, we prepared ourſelves for ſetting out directly; we ſtripped ourſelves naked, and made a compact bundle of our cloaths, which we faſtened together with ſome more of the tough bark, with which I had bound the trees. We uſed this precaution, in order to be the leſs incumbered with them, if we ſhould happen to be caſt away; and, by tying up our wretched habiliments, in one parcel, I might be the better able to have towed them along, if I ſhould be reduced to the neceſſity of ſwimming on ſhore again. The event ſhewed the prudence of ſuch precautions.

The neceſſity of the circumſtances to which Madame la Couture and I were by this time reduced, rendered all regard

gard to the decency of appearances, a matter below our attention; we had, I dare pronounce, throughout all our troubles, never conſidered each other as of different ſexes: I ſaw in her, nothing but the natural feebleneſs of a woman; nor did ſhe reflect upon any thing in me, but that reſolution and courage with which I had endeavoured to inſpire her, and thoſe aſſiſtances which my ſuperior ſtrength had impowered me to afford her. All other ſentiments were dead within us; and exhauſted nature, now grown indifferent to every other object, ſolicited us but for food alone.

Our apprehenſion about the accidents which might befal us, on this new adventure, would not ſuffer us to detach ourſelves from our proviſions, as we had done from our cloaths; the loſs of theſe could not be ſo fatal to us, as the want of the former: we, therefore,

opened

opened our parcels, and diſpoſed them in ſuch a manner as enabled us to faſten them round our bodies, with the leaſt inconvenience or incumbrance to us, being reſolved to ſave them with ourſelves, or periſh along with them.

We then embarked on our raft, which I launched into the river, and endeavoured to guide, as well as I could, with my perch; but the current hurried us away with a rapidity that made me tremble, as I thought it impoſſible to be able to ſtem the torrent, till it had delivered us into the ſea: however, after infinite labour and addreſs, by humouring the courſe of the water for many yards in length, to gain an inch in the breadth, we at laſt got about half way acroſs, and was in hopes that, by ſuch repeated efforts and compliances, we might poſſibly complete our traverſe alive.

We were now in the middle of the river, where the force of the current was ſtrongeſt, when we were daſhed againſt the trunk of a tree, that happened to be bent down acroſs the water; and the ſhock was ſo violent that it broke all the ligaments of the raft aſunder; the timber ſeparated, and we were plunged at once into the flood, where we ſhould infallibly have been both drowned, if I had not been quick enough to ſeize hold of a branch of the tree, with one hand, and of Madame la Couture's hair, by the other, juſt as ſhe was ſinking down, probably for ever.

The top of her head only appeared above water, I pulled her toward me, and as ſhe had not been quite deprived of her ſenſes, I called to her to ſtrike out with her legs and arms, to help me to ſuſtain her. I then aſſiſted her to clamber up on the ſtem of the tree, the

the root of which being fixed in the oppoſite bank, I aſſiſted her to reach the ſhore, at laſt, in ſafety.

I immediately unburdened myſelf of my load of proviſions, which I laid down by her, and returned to the river, to ſee what was become of our bundle of cloaths, which I perceived intangled among the branches of the tree that had been equally the cauſe of our wreck and ſafety; but the agitation of thewater had juſt then diſengaged and delivered it to the current, at the very inſtant I had plunged in to recover it, which I had the good fortune to do, though not without a great deal of fatigue and difficulty.

I gave the parcel into the care of Madame la Couture, to open, wring, and ſpread out before the ſun, while I ſet about making a *fire, to dry our* cloaths more quickly, and to dreſs part of the tortoiſe we had brought over

with us; for we were ſo fortunate not to loſe any thing by being overſet, except the raft, which could now have been of no further ſervice to us.

After having put on our cloaths, and refreſhed ourſelves with a good meal, we took care to dry the reſt of our proviſions, before the fire; which work gave us ſufficient employment for the remainder of that day. We paſſed the night in this place, with the uſual precautions; and, the next morning, being much recruited by food and ſleep, we ſet forward towards St. Marc, in the Apalachian mountains, bearing our courſe eaſtward, as much as we could, and trembling every ſtep of the way, for fear of miſtaking our road.

A wood that we met with in our courſe, we found it almoſt impracticable to paſs through, on account of the ſtrong reeds and briars it was choaked

choaked up with; for the ſort of ſhoes, buſkins, gloves, and masks, we had made out of the cayman's ſkin, had been quite worn out, by this time, and finally melted into pap, by their late ſoaking in the water; ſo that our feet and legs ſuffered ſeverely from the thorns and brambles, while our hands and faces were expoſed to the muſkitos, ſandflies, and waſps, as before, whoſe poiſonous bites and ſtings ſoon ſwelled our bodies to an enormous ſize.—Beſides which grievances, we met with a leſs ſupply of ſuſtenance here, than on the other ſide of the river, and what yet remained of our negro and the cayman, were our only ſupport.

We ſtruggled, for many days, thro' all theſe difficulties, which were augmented ſtill by repeated ſufferings, both of mind and body. No longer did fond hope ſuſtain our drooping ſpi-

rits, with expectations flattering, tho' vain; all diſtinction of our limbs and features was loſt, and we reſembled moving tuns, rather than human creatures. We marched heavily along, hardly able to ſet one foot before the other; and when we ſat down to reſt, it required our utmoſt efforts to raiſe ourſelves from the ground again. In fine, we were now ſunk to the loweſt abyſs of miſery and deſpair.

Madame la Couture ſupported her ſtrength and ſpirits longer than I did. While my powers remained, I had been ſparing of hers, and had taken every labour and fatigue upon myſelf that her aſſiſtance was not immediately neceſſary to. Her mind too had been always more at reſt than mine; becauſe ſhe acquieſced generally in the exertions of my forecaſt, and endeavours. All the difficulties of our ſituation and circumſtances had hitherto reſted chief-

ly

ly on me; but the weight of our misfortunes became, at laſt, too heavy for my ſtrength, or rather weakneſs, to ſupport.

One day, not being able to ſtir one ſtep farther, totally debilitated, and almoſt deprived of ſight by the bliſters which the venom of the inſects had raiſed about my eyes, I laid myſelf down on the ſhore, which we had then reached, about an hundred yards from the ſea; and, after repoſing my limbs for an hour, beneath a ſpreading tree, I attempted to riſe again, with a purpoſe of continuing our march; but in vain. I felt as if the earth I preſſed had been heaped upon me.

" 'Tis over with me now, (ſaid I, to " my companion); here muſt I remain " for ever; my grave encompaſſes me; " this ſpot is, at length, the final " end of my journey, of my misfor- " tunes, and my life. Avail yourſelf of

" what powers you have yet remain-
" ing, to haſten forward to ſome in-
" habited part of the country; carry
" with you whatever proviſions we have
" left, and do not idly ſpend them in
" waiting longer here with me; I ſee
" that fate has oppoſed my farther
" progreſs, and feel my diſſolution be-
" ginning, from this moment; the abi-
" lity which ſtill remains to you, ſhews
" that it is more favourably inclined to-
" wards you: take then the advantage
" of its kindneſs, and reflect ſometimes
" with tenderneſs on the unfortunate
" aſſociate of your miſeries, who has
" exhauſted his every faculty in aiding
" and relieving you, and who would
" never have remitted his cares for
" your preſervation, if he had been
" able to accompany you any longer,
" or had it any otherwiſe in his power
" to leſſen your diſtreſs. Let us reſign
" ourſelves to the ſevere neceſſity which
" impoſes

" impoſes ſo cruel a law upon us both:
" farewel, depart on the inſtant, ſtrug-
" gle ſtill for life; and when you may
" rejoice in happier days, forgetting in
" abundance the wants you have ſo
" long enduſed, remember only that
" you have loſt a friend amidſt the de-
" ſerts of America. You will, ſpon, I
" hope, be able to reach ſome ſpot
" where Europeans may be met with,
" from whence you may have the
" opportunity of veſſels returning to
" France, by which I intreat that you
" will render me the only kind office
" that remains yet in your power, by
" ſending an account of the unfortu-
" nate Viaud, to my relations, telling
" them that I am, at length, releaſed
" from miſery, and deſiring them to
" divide the ſmall remainder of my ef-
" fects, among them, without the moſt
" diſtant idea of my ever being in a

" condition to redemand them. Bid " them pity and pray for me."

Madame la Couture could only anſwer me with tears and moans; her ſenſibility affected me; 'tis a conſolation to the unhappy to ſee themſelves the objects of compaſſion. She took my hands between hers, and preſſed them with the utmoſt tenderneſs, while I continued to perſuade her to our ſeparation, urging the abſolute neceſſity of it, in vain. " No, my dear friend, " (ſaid ſhe) I will not abandon you; " I will ſtill render you, as far as my " powers will permit, the aſſiſtance " I owe you, and which I have receiv- " ed ſo long from you already. Exert " your ſpirits, and your ſtrength may " return again. If my hopes ſhould " deceive me, it will not be then too " late to expoſe myſelf, helpleſs and " alone, in this vaſt deſert, accompa-

" nied

" nied only by my fears, and dread-
" ing, every moment, that offended
" Heaven might let loose the savage
" beasts to devour me, as a just punish-
" nishment for having forsaken you,
" while there remained the least possi-
" bility of affording you any man-
" ner of relief. As to our provisions,
" we will endeavour still to husband
" them with the best oeconomy we may;
" and I will now go in search on the bor-
" ders of the sea, for some fresher
" nourishment, which may possibly
" recruit your strength once more. I
" devote myself, from this moment,
" wholly to your service; and, in order
" to defend you from the insects which
" would have more power over you, in
" your present helpless condition, I
" shall leave you covered up intirely
" with this garment."

She then took off one of her petty-coats, of which she had but two, and cutting

cutting it aſunder with my knife, ſpread one half of it over my legs, and the other on my arms and face, which perfectly ſecured me from the attacks of thoſe venomous animals that were then buzzing all around me. After this kind precaution, ſhe lighted up a fire, and immediately retired towards the ſea-ſhore.

She returned ſoon again, with a tortoiſe in her hand; of which the firſt uſe I made, was to waſh my ſtings and bliſters in its warm blood, as I imaginſed it allayed the heat and ſwelling. I recommended the ſame medicine to Madame la Couture, which ſhe readily partook of, as ſhe was as much diſtreſſed with the bites of theſe inſects as I was. We then compoſed ourſelves to reſt, for ſome time, but my weakneſs was not relieved; and I found myſelf growing ſo much worſe, after I awoke, that I had reaſon to conclude I had not many hours to ſurvive.

A large hen-turkey that ſprung juſt in view, at that time, and ran into a coppice near us, gave us hopes that ſhe was going to brood, and that we might be able to rob her neſt of the eggs, which might be a great refreſhment to us in our preſent circumſtances. Madame la Couture undertook the office of provedore, on this occaſion, as I was totally unable to raiſe myſelf from the ground; and was, therefore, left behind, lying ſtretched before the fire.

I remained in that ſituation, for about three hours; the ſun was near ſetting; I was in a ſtate of torpid inſenſibility, without motion, and almoſt deprived of all reflection, like a perſon between ſleeping and waking; a total numbneſs had ſeized my lethargic limbs; I felt no pain, but a certain liſtleſneſs and uncomfortable ſenſation affected my whole body.

About

About the time I mention, I was rouſed from my mortal doze, by the ſound of ſome ſhrill voices, which awakened my attention; I liſtened with dread, and they ſeemed to have come from the ſea-ſide. I concluded that they muſt have proceeded from ſome ſavages who were marching along the coaſt, near the place I lay.

"Good God! (I cried out) have you "determined on this moment for the "criſis of my deſtiny? Have you ſent "theſe barbarians hither to put an end "to my miſeries, either by their cruel- "ty or kindneſs? Whatever you or- "dain I reſign myſelf to, without a mur- "mur. Deſtroy or ſuccour me; I ſhall "either way be relieved, and ſhall "equally adore and ſubmit myſelf to "thy providence."

The voices were repeated ſeveral times, and a ray of hope began to beam on my mind; I endeavoured to raiſe myſelf

myſelf up; and, after many efforts, conquered my weakneſs ſo far as to be able to ſit on the ground; but this cruel reflection began to leſſen my triumph in this advantage. Perhaps, thought I, the perſons I hear are ſailing on the ſea, and bound to ſome diſtant coaſt; they can know nothing of me, unleſs they land near this place; and then how much more wretched muſt this diſappointed hope ſtill render me! In the helpleſs ſtate I am at preſent, how is it poſſible for me to convey the leaſt knowledge to them that there lies a miſerable perſon here, who is in the laſt need of their humanity and aſſiſtance!

This thought threw me into the utmoſt deſpondency; I ſtrove to hail them, but my voice failed me; the dread, however, of miſſing the only reſource that had preſented itſelf to us for ſo long a time, ſerved to reſtore part

part of my powers, which I made uſe of to creep upon my hands and knees, as near the ſhore as I could. I could then diſtinctly perceive a large boat which rowed along near the coaſt, and had not yet paſſed by; I raiſed myſelf then on my knees, and waving my cap, to and fro, as high as I could reach, I made ſignals that I was obliged often to interrupt, as my weakneſs did not ſuffer me to hold up my arm long enough, and made me fall flat again on my face.

How much did I regret the abſence of Madame la Couture, during this anxious interval! She was able to have run down to the ſea-ſide, to have called out, to have beſeeched their ſuccour, and to have ſummoned their attention; but ſhe was certainly then at too great a diſtance to hear the ſound of their voices, or ſhe would ſoon have appeared in view.

In

In her ſtead I thought of every poſſible method of rendering myſelf viſible; I happened to perceive a long branch of a tree, within my reach, which I made uſe of to raiſe my cap upon, to which I faſtened a part of the petticoat that my companion in miſery had lent me, as before related; and this kind of floating enſign was at laſt happily taken notice of by the perſons who were in the veſſel; which I ſoon perceived, by the ſudden ſhout they ſet up, and by their quitting their former courſe, and ſteering in directly to the ſhore.

I immediately ſtruck my perch into the ground, that they might not loſe ſight of the ſignal, and endeavoured to creep towards the ſtrand, where I lay ſtretched along, fatigued with my efforts, but exulting in proſpect of an approaching deliverance ,and putting up moſt grateful and fervent eja-

culations to Providence for its goodneſs towards me.

On looking attentively at the boat, I had the tranſport to diſcover that the paſſengers in it wore cloaths, which afforded me the comfort of concluding them to be Europeans, and not any of the ſavages of the country, which relieved me from the apprehenſions I had laboured under from the firſt.

While I was waiting for their landing, I caſt my eyes all about, in ſearch of Madame la Couture, whom I was impatient to ſee that I might have the pleaſure of acquainting her with the happy event which had arrived to our relief, and which ſhe might be an equal ſharer in. I felt my good fortune but by halves, without her participation of it. The tender cares ſhe had beſtowed on me, and her reſolving not to abandon me, had rivetted the friendſhip that had before attached me to her,

and

and which our common misfortunes had given birth to.

She appeared not in view, all this while, and this was the only uneaſineſs I was ſenſible of, during that interval; but this delay did not affect my mind very conſiderably, as I looked upon her deliverance to be as real, as if ſhe had been preſent; and that ſhe could not be long enough abſent to miſs the opportunity, as it grew now late; and the falling of the night muſt certainly warn her to return.

The boat at length arrived to ſhore, the crew landed, and came up to me; the exceſs of my joy, in ſeeing them ſo near me, had like to have been fatal to me; it threw me into a ſwoon, for ſome minutes, which rendered me incapable of ſpeaking one word, in anſwer to the ſeveral queſtions they aſked me.

A cup of taffia, which they poured down my throat, revived my ſpirits, and enabled me to expreſs my gratitude, and to acquaint them in a few words of the miſeries of my ſituation; which indeed they were ſufficiently able to gueſs at themſelves, on the firſt view of me, and therefore reſtrained me from entering into any of the particulars of it. While I was ſatisfied in finding them to be Europeans, though judging by their manner of anſwering me in French, that they were not of that nation, yet I never thought of aſking them what countrymen they were, as this information was a matter of but very little conſequence; it being ſufficient for me that I was fallen into the hands of civilized perſons, and that I thought I might depend upon their aſſiſtance.

I intreated them to hoop and halloo through the coppice, near us, whither

whither Madame la Couture had gone in queſt of the turkey-hen, in hopes ſhe might be able to hear the chearful ſound of human voices, once more, and be brought back again to a place of ſafety and comfort. This had its effect; ſhe appeared, on the ſummons, and my happineſs was now complete.

I ſaw her running towards us with the utmoſt exertion of her ſpeed, with the turkey and her neſt, which ſhe had the good fortune to make a prize of. "My dear friend, cried I, in rapture, "theſe proviſions are come moſt luck-"ily, at preſent, to treat thoſe kind deli-"verers whom the mercy of God has ſent "ſo opportunely to our relief. Rejoice "with me. Providence never forſakes "the juſt; and your generous compaſ-"ſion towards me has been ſuffici-"ently recompenſed."

As the night was now come on, it was not thought proper to embark,

'till the morning. I then learned that it was the 6th of May, for 'till that time I could not be certain of the dates that paſſed. We all gathered round my fire, to which our new friends were ſo kind to carry me; we ſupped on the turkey and her eggs, to which they added ſome pickled pork, and a flaſk or two of taffia. This repaſt was doubtleſs the moſt chearful of any I had ever enjoyed, ſince our ſhipwreck; content of mind helped to relieve the weakneſs of our bodies, and I began ſoon to feel my health and ſtrength returning.

Our gueſts informed us that they were Engliſh, the principal of whom was an officer of infantry, in the ſervice of his Britannic majeſty, whoſe name was Wright. I entertained him after ſupper, with an account of our extraordinary hardſhips and adventures; and I obſerved him frequently moved

moved at the miſeries we had been reduced to, but he was more particularly ſhocked at the neceſſity which had conſtrained us to ſeek our preſervation in the ſacrifice of my wretched negro. He then deſired to look at what remained of this cannibal food, and curioſity tempted him to taſte a morſel of it, which he immediately ſpit out of his mouth, with the utmoſt diſguſt, and pitied us extremely for having been obliged to ſuſtain ourſelves on ſo diſagreeable and unnatural an aliment.

I obſerved occaſionally that there was only the officer, and one of his ſoldiers, who underſtood French; and that all the reſt of the crew were impatient to learn the particulars of my ſtory. I thought I could never do too much for ſuch friends; therefore I related them over again, in Engliſh, which I was enabled to do, by having been twice taken priſoner, in the laſt

war, and confined in Britain, long enough to learn the language ſufficiently to render myſelf intelligible to my deliverers, whoſe good will I further attached to me by ſuch a compliance.

After I had finiſhed my recital, I inquired from Mr. Wright, in my turn, to what lucky chance we owed the good fortune of his opportune ſuccour? He informed me that he belonged to a detachment ſtationed at St. Marks, in the Apalachian mountains, commanded by Mr. Swettenham; that ſome days before a ſavage having reported that he had found a man dead on the ſhore, who by ſome remains of his cloaths ſeemed to have been an European; that his face and belly were wanting, and he appeared to have been devoured by ſome wild beaſt; Mr. Swettenham, upon this account, had ſent him off, with an interpreter, and four ſoldiers, to traverſe the coaſt, and afford

afford relief to every diſtreſſed perſon they might meet with in their way. To which he added, that his ſuperior having obſerved the ſtormy weather, that had continued ſome time, was in apprehenſion that a brigantine, which he was in expectation of from Paſſacola, freighted with proviſions for the garriſon, had been caſt away.

I doubted not but that the corpſe ſeen by the ſavage, and which had been the occaſion of Mr. Wright's lucky cruiſe, muſt have been one of our poor loſt friends, either Monſieur la Couture, or Monſieur Deſclau. They had been both drowned, for a certainty; one of their bodies might have been devoured in the ſea, by a cayman, and the other thrown upon the ſhore, by the agitation of the waves; at leaſt we have not received any manner of account about them, ever ſince.

After we had entertained each other in this manner, for ſome time, we compoſed ourſelves to reſt, but were ſoon rouſed again from our ſleep, by a violent ſtorm, that aroſe in the middle of the night. The rain, wind, thunder and lightning, ceaſed not, for an inſtant, 'till morning. This tempeſt diſturbed our new gueſts, much more than it did Madame la Couture or me, who had been ſo much longer uſed to ſuch alarms; and beſides they affected us leſs, as we were already poſſeſſed of a relief to all our dangers and our cares. The ſenſe of our misfortunes were not near ſo poignant, ſince we were ſo happily arrived within view of their end; our weakneſs and our wounds oppreſſed us leſs, and ſeemed but ſlight temporary ills, which a little care and repoſe would ſoon remedy.

Towards

Towards the dawn of day the ſtorm abated, and by ſun-riſe a perfect calm ſucceeded. We then prepared to embark, and my ſpirits were ſo much reſtored, that I thought myſelf able enough to get into the boat, without any manner of aſſiſtance, which I was going to attempt; but Mr. Wright would not permit it, and ordered me to be carried aboard, ſaying, "I wiſh "you joy of your ſeeming recovery, "but you ought not to preſume too "much on it; huſband your ſtrength, "as well as you can, to ſerve you up- "on more neceſſary occaſions."

Madame la Couture walked by my ſide to the boat, looking at me all the way, with a ſincere and lively joy in her eyes; "Reflect, now, (ſaid ſhe,) whe- "ther I was not in the right to abide "ſtill with you, notwithſtanding your "generous diſmiſſal of my ſervice; we "are both of us, thank God, alive,

"and

"and in a ſtate to enjoy the bleſſing "of life, without danger, or remorſe. "How wretched ſhould I be, even in "my preſent circumſtances, if by o- "beying your preſſing inſtances, I "had met with this deliverance, with- "out being able to have ſhared it with "you!"

When I had got into the boat, I re-ſigned myſelf intirely to repoſe, as having now no other care upon my mind, and Mr. Wright thought of putting an end to his expedition. He had already traverſed all the iſles, but one, and proceeded now toward that, in his tour back to St. Mark. We arrived there after about twelve hours ſail with a favourable gale; and I recollected it to be the one whence Madame la Couture and I had departed together, and where her ſon had been left to expire.

The miſeries I had endured, every moment, ſince that event, had afforded me but little leiſure to reflect upon his ſituation; but my return to the very ſpot again, affected my mind ſo ſtrongly towards him, that I let fall many tears to the dear boy's memory.

In the midſt of my regret for his loſs, I remembered that he was not quite dead when I took my leave of him: this reflection rouſed me; and that he might be yet alive, and in a ſtate to benefit from our ſuccour, was an idea that flattered my mind ſurpriſingly. In vain did reaſon and probability oppoſe the notion, as a thing impoſſible; they could not prevail on me to quit the place, without coming to ſome certainty about ſo intereſting a fact. Accordingly I prevailed on Mr. Wright to ſuffer us to ſail quite round the iſland, while the ſoldiers were exerting the

the utmoſt ſtretch of their lungs, in hallooing and calling out La Couture, at frequent intervals; but no anſwer was returned.

This ſilence, however, neither baffled my hopes, nor lulled to reſt a certain ſecret impulſe, which preſſed me inwardly, all the while. The poor young man might be ſtill in a ſtate to have heard the voices, but not in a condition of reſponding to them. I recollected my own ſituation, in this particular, the day before; and how much more deplorable muſt his be, if he was ſtill alive! In fine, the exceſs of my anxiety, impatience, and fond hope, became quite ungovernable, at laſt.

I communicated my thoughts and feelings to Mr. Wright, who, after having repreſented to me the fruitleſſneſs of the delay which ſuch an inquiry might occaſion, had the complaiſance and humanity, however, no longer to oppoſe

oppoſe his reaſon to my ravings; but ſteering directly to ſhore, ſent a ſoldier to the place I pointed out to him, as I was not able to walk thither myſelf, and directed him to bring us a ſpeedy account of the ſtate he ſhould find the young man in.

This meſſenger returned to us, in about half a quarter of an hour, with a report that he had ſeen the body, and found it dead; upon which Mr. Wright ordered the ſoldier aboard, and prepared to tack about for St. Mark's. But I crept towards him, and raiſing my ſelf on my knees, ſaid, "Dear Sir, "I muſt uudoubtedly appear very "troubleſome and unreaſonable to "you, in the whole of this affair; but "I have ſtill one requeſt more to ſolicit "you for, with regard to it.

"This young man (continued I), was "dear, both to his mother and to "me: his generous fortitude alone

" prevailed on us to leave this iſland; I,
" therefore, owe him whatever return of
" gratitude may be in my power; he is
" now, alas! beyond the reach of every
" duty of humanity, except the laſt:
" ſuffer me, then, to diſcharge that debt,
" by allowing me time juſt to ſtep on
" ſhore, and inter the body, with as
" much decency as our preſent hur-
" ry and circumſtances may permit."

Mr. Wright, who continued to behave with remarkable tenderneſs and indulgence towards me, yielded to this requeſt, alſo, and ordered all his men to attend and carry me to the corpſe. Madame la Couture would, likewiſe, perform her part in this pious office: " My unhappy child (ſaid ſhe, with an
" heavy ſigh), has followed his dear fa-
" ther to the grave, and his mother
" cannot long ſurvive them. The deliver-
" ance I have met with, has come, alas!
" too late, ſince I cannot partake the be-
" nefit of it, with either of them."

We all came together, to the place where the young man lay ſtretched at length on the ground, with his face to the earth; his ſkin was all parched with the ſun and wind; he ſent forth a putrid ſmell, like a body that had lain too long unburied; and the worms had already taken poſſeſſion of his legs and thighs. In fine, he was become an object offenſive to the ſenſes, and ſhocking to humanity.

I kneeled down, in prayer, while the ſoldiers were digging his grave, which, when it was finiſhed, they came to take the body and lay it in. But what was their ſurprize, mine, and his mother's, when one of the men who had laid his hand under his breaſt, in order to raiſe him up, cried out that he felt him ſtill warm, and perceived his heart yet in motion; and I ſaw one of his legs, at the ſame time, draw itſelf

ſelf up, as ſoon as another of the ſoldiers put his hand to it!

On the inſtant we all of us exerted our utmoſt endeavours to render him every manner of aſſiſtance, in our power; we forced ſome taffia, mixed with freſh water, down his throat, and made uſe of the ſame lotion to waſh and cleanſe the wounds in his limbs, from which we picked out a great many worms, that had formed their neſts there, and were devouring him piece-meal.

Madame la Couture, rendered motionleſs, at firſt, with aſtoniſhment, became ſoon tranſported from the extremes of deſpair to hope, from grief to joy; and, finding that her dear child, whoſe death ſhe had been certain of the moment before, ſtill breathed, continued for ſome minutes to diſtruſt her ſenſes, crying out, in a kind

of

of delirium, "Is it poſſible, great "God! O, my friends, do not impoſe "on me; give me certain conviction "of this miracle, and do not ſport with "my diſtraction, by poſſeſſing my "mind with falſe hopes, that are only "to end in the moſt cruel of diſap-"pointments!"

After this exclamation, ſhe ran to her ſon, threw herſelf on the ground by him, examined his breaſt, his heart, his pulſe; then looking ſharply in the countenances of thoſe who ſtood round her, in order to pry into their ſentiments about his condition, ſhe turned again to him, caught him in her arms, and endeavoured to warm him into life, by her kiſſes and embraces, till we were obliged to force her away, leſt the violence of her emotions might poſſibly have diſappointed the very purpoſe intended by them, and have prevented us from ſupplying thoſe aſſiſtances

which we thought more likely to produce the happy effect we ſo much wiſhed and laboured to obtain. I was ſo little able to adminiſter any manner of help myſelf, upon this occaſion, that I ſat ſtill on the ground, and held her down by me; ſaying every thing I could, to encourage her hopes, and reſtrain her agitations. She liſtened to me with impatience, keeping her eyes conſtantly fixed on her ſon, and ſtarting up ſo often to run to him, that my ſtrength was almoſt exhauſted in withholding her from interrupting the operations that were neceſſary for the recovery of our patient.

"Have but a moment's calmneſs "(ſaid I to her); ſuffer theſe generous "Engliſhmen to take their own way; "your interpoſing may impede, per- "haps totally prevent the ſucceſs of "their endeavours." "I think ſo too "(ſhe would reply); I will take your

" advice, and ſit ſtill." In a moment after, ſhe would attempt to eſcape me; I again exhorted her to remain quiet, repeated the ſame reaſons, and reminded her of the promiſe ſhe had juſt given me, not to ſtir. " I remember it," ſhe cried, " I confeſs the breach of my " word, and acknowledge the impro- " priety and hazard of my conduct; " but, my dear Viaud, I have not the leaſt " command over myſelf, and am certain " that I ſhould perfectly recover my rea- " ſon, if I was ſuffered to ſee my dear ſon " again, for an inſtant, a ſingle inſtant. " Why do you reſtrain me then? This " muſt be a mere ſavage cruelty in you. " Oh! if you knew what it was to be a " mother! Had you ever a child, in " your life?" Then, without waiting for an anſwer, ſhe would aſk me many other queſtions, in a breath; as, what my opinion was of the buſineſs in agitation; whether I had conceived any

hope of her ſon's recovering, &c. but not in the leaſt attending to my replies; and, all the while, endeavouring to get herſelf looſe from my hold.

At length Mr. Wright ran to acquaint us that the young man had been recovered to his ſenſes; that he had opened his eyes, wept much, ſtared at the ſtrange faces he ſaw about him, had aſked where his mother was; and what became of me, alſo. When we appeared before him, he knew us both, at once. "You are here ſtill, then, "(ſaid he, with the feebleſt voice;) is it "poſſible that you ſhould have remain-"ed here ſo long! I have not ſeen "either of you for a conſiderable time; "tell me where you have been, all this "while?"

This was neither time nor place to give any account of our abſence; we, therefore only replied, that we were then happily arrived to ſave his life, and

and relieve his miſeries, and exhorted him to take courage, and be of good cheer, in order to aſſiſt towards his own recovery. We had him then carried into the boat, where I laid him down upon ſome of the ſoldiers cloaths, which they were ſo humane to lend us; I covered him over with a blanket, and ſtretched myſelf cloſe by his couch, in order to take care of him, throughout the voyage. His mother lay on the other ſide, and I had infinite trouble in defending him from her extravagant fondneſs, and fatiguing careſſes.

As it was late, we made but little way that evening; and went on ſhore again, at the further extremity of the iſland, to paſs the night there. The ſoldiers gave chace to ſome buſtards they happened to ſpring, on their landing, and brought us three of them time enough to have them dreſſed for ſup-

per. Our patient eat a little of them, and ſlept ſoundly till the next morning.

The following day he found himſelf much recruited, but rather more in his mind than body; for he was now come perfectly to himſelf, and he had raved, by intervals, before. However, he could not recollect any thing that paſſed ſince our departure, except that he had often fainted; and that, between the fits he had been ſenſible of extreme hunger and thirſt, and had refreſhed himſelf with the oyſters and water we had left within his reach, while they laſted; but was ſo weak, that he could not ſtretch out his hand to ſupply his wants, and was forced to trail himſelf along on his belly, and feed, like a reptile, prone on the ground. He was not capable of computing how long he had been left alone, and it ſeemed to him as if we had

had not yet ventured on our raft, but had met with all the ſuccour we brought him, juſt as we were preparing to ſet out. We did not care to undeceive him, at that time *.

But the poſſibility of his being able to have exiſted ſo long, in the ſtate I had left him, was a ſubject of aſtoniſhment to us; for had it been only a fact related, we ſhould none of us have had faith enough to have given credit to ſuch an improbable ſtory. We had quitted the iſland, on the 19th of April, and it was now the 7th of May, when we returned to it again; which comprehended an interval, of nineteen

* The writer ſeems to contradict himſelf, a little, in this place; for, juſt before, the invalid is ſaid to have been ſurpriſed how they could have remained ſo long in the iſland, without returning to take ſome further care of him; ſo that he appears to have had a better notion of the interval, at firſt, than now. But, 'tis probable that Mr. Viaud might have only tranſpoſed theſe circumſtances, in the hurry of his recital.

days, that he had ſubſiſted, as it were, by miracle alone. The hand of Providence was evident in his preſervation; and this reflection affected Madame la Couture ſo ſtrongly, that throwing herſelf on her knees; "Merciful God! "(cried ſhe out,) thou haſt renewed the "life of my ſon; thou haſt lent him "to me, even beyond my hopes! O "ſpare him to me ſtill! Complete thy "bounty, and grant me, even in this "world, this only recompence for all "the miſeries I have already ſuſtained! "But if thou wilt take him to thyſelf, "if thou haſt only reſpited his doom, "to afford me this ſhort gleam of joy! "O inſpire me with fortitude ſufficient "to ſupport myſelf under this laſt, this "worſt of misfortunes, or ſuffer me to "feel the ſtroke of fate, along with "him." I joined in her prayer, but was full of hopes, all the while, about her ſon.

We

We embarked again, that morning, for St. Mark's, and the wind was quite favourable to us, during the paſſage. I was convinced, from the obſervations I made, as we ſailed along, that, without the aſſiſtance of our good Engliſh friends, I ſhould never have been able to have reached thither, by land. This place is fifteen leagues from that part of the continent whence we embarked. The very length of the journey, then, was infinitely more than we could have ever conquered, in our circumſtances at that time; beſides, the number of large, deep, and rapid rivers, which croſſed our way, as I could very well judge, by the ſeveral currents I ſaw diſembogue themſelves into the ſea, as we coaſted thither.

What unſurmountable obſtacles muſt theſe have been, in our then ſtate of weakneſs! How often muſt we have been forced out of the compaſs-line of our

our direction, to travel up the ſides of theſe rivers, through pathleſs deſarts, as before, in ſearch of ſome fordable paſſage! And what a number of leagues muſt theſe circumviations have added to our journey! But theſe things are beyond our power to compute; and the only one we can be certain of, at preſent, is, that it had been impoſſible for us to have ever overcome theſe difficulties; and that we muſt have periſhed with hunger or fatigue, in a very few days, in making the attempt.

That ſame day, the 8th of May, we all happily arrived at St. Mark's, about ſeven o'clock in the evening, and Mr. Swettenham received us with the utmoſt humanity; he had me carried home to his own houſe, where, having but one bed, he generouſly ſhared it with me; he lodged Madame la Couture and her ſon in his corporal's apartments, accommodating them with ſheets

ſheets and blankets himſelf. His ſurgeon was immediately ordered to attend us all, and ſupply us with every medicine that might conduce toward our recovery. In fine, there was no care neglected, nor article forgotten, which was neceſſary, either to our comfort, or relief.

Our good fortune had delivered us into the hands of a generous and benevolent man, whoſe kindneſs we experienced in every inſtance. What would have been our condition if we had met with a perſon of leſs ſenſibility, who thinking he had ſufficiently anſwered the duties of humanity, in bringing us out of the deſert, had left us to ſhift for ourſelves, with regard to all other neceſſaries!

But it was time that we ſhould have met with an end to our ſufferings; they had commenced, in a ſhocking manner, the 16th of February, 1766, when

when we were ſhipwrecked, and had continued till the 7th of May, following, comprehending juſt fourſcore and one days. What a century did it appear, to us! Through how many miſeries had we paſſed, during that unhappy interval! What perſons in the world were ever ſo wretched, for the time.

It was nor, therefore, extraordinary that our conſtitutions ſhould have been broken; the ſurprize muſt certainly be much greater that they were able to have ſupported themſelves at all under ſuch ſevere trials; and that we ſhould ever have recovered our minds and healths again. However our ſituation was critical, for ſeveral days; our bodies were ſwelled and inflamed extremely; and the ſurgeon who attended us had very little hopes of our lives, at firſt. But reſt and proper nouriſhment, taken in ſmall portions, at a time,

a time, reſtored us, by degrees, and repaired thoſe ails which hunger and unwholeſome diet had afflicted us with. At length, the tenderneſs and ſkill with which we were nurſed and doctored, had their ſalutary effect on me, as alſo on the young man, whoſe caſe was by much the moſt dangerous; but his mother recruited her ſtrength much ſooner than either of us.

I remained thirteen days in the fort, during which time I learned, from a chief of one of the ſavage clans, who brought diſpatches to Mr. Swettenham, from the Engliſh governor at Paſſacola, an account of the villain Antonio, and the eight mariners whom we had been forced to leave behind us, in the firſt iſland he had brought us all together to. Theſe unhappy men, after having waited a conſiderable time, in vain, for the return of the ſavage, and concluding, from former experience

ence of his infidelity, that he meant to leave them there to periſh for want, grew into a rage of reſentment againſt him, but in this frenzy moſt cruelly revenged themſelves in the wrong place, by killing his mother, his ſiſter and his nephew, in their ſleep. By this means, indeed, they got poſſeſſion of their fire-arms, ammunition, and canoe; but this they were ſtrong enough to have done, without a murder. In deſpair, the exigence may, perhaps,—I ſpeak with diffidence and contrition—both prompt and commit a crime. But, in an act of revenge, the motive doubles the guilt.

As this boat was capable of taking in only five perſons, at a time, they caſt lots for the three who were to remain with Providence, and wait for better fortune. They parted probably with equal concern, on both ſides, as thoſe that went, were in as uncertain a ſtate,

a ſtate, as thoſe who ſtaid. In two days after this event, Antonio happened to return back to the iſland, with a ſuperior force, to carry off the remainder of our effects, and falling on the three ſailors, ſlew them all.

When he came home to his village he publiſhed this account of his expedition, by which means the ſavage chief, before mentioned, came to the knowledge of it, and reported it to us. We could never learn, ſince, what became of the other five adventurers; but as chance and probability were ſo ſtrongly againſt them, I fear much that of the ſixteen perſons, who ſet out on our unfortunate voyage, together, three only of us have ſurvived.

About the end of the time I have mentioned, having felt my health ſo far reſtored, as to need nothing more than time and regimen to confirm it, I reſolved to take leave of my happy

aſylum, as an opportunity juſt then happened, which I was adviſed of beforehand, and which I had reſolved to take the advantage of; for any other occaſion might not have occurred, for ſeveral months again, as that port has but very little connection with the reſt of the world.

The veſſel I embarked in was to ſet ſail the 21ſt of May, and was bound to St. Auguſtin *, where I thought I might have it in my power to provide myſelf with thoſe things that were neceſſary to my preſent wants, better than in ſo devious and deſolate a place as St. Mark's; where, beſides, I could not continue well any longer, on account of the ſtinted proviſions of the garriſon.

* Another Engliſh ſettlement, on the eaſt coaſt of Cape Florida.

Madame

Madame la Couture would have come on board along with me, very willingly, but that her ſon was not yet in a ſtate of health to undertake the voyage, and ſhe would not expoſe him to the hazard. Beſides, ſhe was a native of Louiſiana, and had many relations in that country, which would otherwiſe have determined her to wait for a ſhip from that coaſt, which ſhe had been informed was expected to arrive, about the latter end of the following month, by which time her ſon might be in a ſafer condition to ſail along with her.

We took leave of each other with mutual regret; the having travelled and ſuffered together ſo long, had bound us in the tendereſt ties of friendſhip; we felt as if part of ourſelves was miſſing, when we were a moment out of each other's ſight; but we had been long uſed to be governed

by neceſſity, and this obliged us to take different routes; but with this happy reflection, that our miſeries were at an end, and that no further anxiety remained now in our minds, with regard to the fate of one another.

Our adieus were tender. There was no reſtraining the flow of tears that fell on both ſides, while we were embracing, and promiſing never to forget or neglect each other. The young man, who was ſtill confined to his bed, joined our farewels, and raiſing himſelf up, on his knees, cried out, "Great God, preſerve him who "reſtored my mother to me, and called "me back to life again. Reward him, "gracious Heaven, for ſuch benefits, "and ſo acquit me of obligations "which I have no other way of re-"paying but by gratitude and prayer."

This

This effuſion of ſenſibility affected me beyond every other circumſtance of our parting; I embraced him with tranſport, ſaying that I was already overpaid, by his ſentiments of me; that, in effect, he owed me nothing; for if I had the good fortune to be any way ſerviceable to his mother, her aſſiſtance had been equally uſeful to me; and that, with regard to him, I had done but my duty as a man, and in redeeming him from the iſland, I could not think I had ſufficiently expiated the barbarity of having forſaken him there.

Every time I reflect on the condition I found him in, I am ſhocked at myſelf, but rejoice again at the inward motion, that Divine impulſe, which, ſuperior to all reaſon relative to him, or prudence with regard to myſelf, prompted me to land at that inſtant, to view the body, and ſupply the rites

of ſepulture. I tremble at the mere idea of his being now no more, if, when the ſoldier had reported his death, I had ſuffered them to have proceeded on their voyage.

At length I forced myſelf away from the mother and the ſon, and went to make my acknowledgements to Mr. Swettenham, and Mr. Wright; but they would not liſten to any expreſſion of obligations, and embraced me in ſuch a manner as augmented them. They attended me to the ſhip, where I found they had already provided me with ample ſtores for the paſſage, and both of them joined in recommending me to the care and friendſhip of the captain, in the ſtrongeſt terms imaginable, and exacted his promiſe that he would pay a particular attention to me, in every inſtance wherein he could poſſibly be any way ſerviceable to me; for

for all which they engaged to make him a proper return of kindneſs.

Mr. Swettenham then gave me a packet in charge, to be delivered to the governor of St. Auguſtin, as alſo a certificate of the ſituation and circumſtances in which Mr. Wright had found Madame la Couture, her ſon, and me; which voucher I had deſired from him ſoon after my arrival at St. Mark's, in order to ſupport the authenticity of theſe almoſt incredible memoirs. Theſe two generous friends then withdrew, and left me affected with the moſt lively ſenſe of admiration and gratitude.

I ſhall not trouble you with the particulars of my voyage to St. Auguſtin, which laſted for twenty-four days, but ſhall only mention to you one extraordinary circumſtance, that from the moment we ſet ſail, 'till we arrived at port, the captain ſeemed

to have quite forgot his promiſes to my good hoſts at St. Mark's; for his manners and whole conduct were remarkably brutal towards me, which I had not, by any word or action of mine, in the leaſt provoked him to; ſo that it was beyond my power to gueſs at what it could be attributed to. This not only rendered my paſſage extremely diſagreeable, but made it appear much longer alſo than it might otherwiſe have done.

There was one article, too, that was a thing of more conſequence to me than all the reſt; and this was the want of freſh water, which cheap and common beverage he refuſed me, after the firſt three or four days of the voyage. The being deprived of a liquor ſo neceſſary to a convaleſcent, was very near giving me a relapſe of my former weakneſs and diſorders, and ſome very dangerous diſeaſe muſt have

have been the conſequence of my remaining but a day or two longer under the barbarous dominion of this ſecond Antonio. I landed at St. Auguſtin, the 13th of June; the ſhip anchored on the Bar, and the pilot's boat carried me on ſhore, where a corporal received, and conducted me before Mr. Grant, the governor of the garriſon, to whom I delivered Mr. Swettenham's diſpatches.

If I had obligations to the latter perſon, I have as many to acknowledge to this gentleman. He would not ſuffer me to go look for a lodging in the town, but ordered me an apartment in the citadel, and directed his ſurgeon to attend me conſtantly; which was abſolutely neceſſary to my recovery, as ſome ulcers had broke out in my neck, for want of freſh water to have cooled and diluted my blood, for ſo long a time; and my body began to ſwell a-

gain. But all theſe ſymptoms were ſoon conquered, by the kindneſs and care that was beſtowed upon me; and on the 7th of July I found myſelf perfectly able to walk abroad to ſee the town.

It was to the hoſpitality and humanity of this moſt excellent perſon, that I owe the further preſervation of a life which Mr. Wright and Mr. Swettenham had before redeemed. I can never reflect without the moſt grateful ſenſibility, on the goodneſs and charity that theſe three generous Engliſhmen have exerted towards me, and which a ſtranger and a foreigner might not have reaſon to expect to meet with every where. But I was in diſtreſs, which was a ſufficient title to their benevolence. They are worthy ſons of a free and a gallant nation; and it muſt ever be a vain attempt in any of their rival powers, to think of com-

bating their fleets or armies, till they ſhall have firſt raiſed themſelves to a level with their liberty and virtue.

I ſtaid with Mr. Grant till the 21ſt of July, when I departed for New York. I can never forget the manner in which this benevolent man completed his kindneſs to me. He ſent for the captain of the ſhip to come to him; and, after giving me into his charge, with the warmeſt recommendations of friendſhip, paid him before-hand, for my paſſage, and ordered every accommodation aboard, that might be neceſſary either for my uſe, eaſe, or convenience; to which he added a portmanteau, filled with cloaths and linen, which were a great comfort and refreſhment to me.

When I attempted to make my acknowledgments for his bounties, "I "muſt beg leave to interrupt you (ſaid "he) upon this ſubject; you have "deſerved

"deſerved every thing I did for you,
"becauſe you needed it; and I have
"done nothing more in your in-
"ſtance, than I ſhould have a right
"to expect myſelf, in the ſame
"circumſtances. But my conſidera-
"tion for your diſtreſs (continued he),
"ought to extend beyond the immedi-
"ate exigencies of your ſituation. You
"certainly have no money about you,
"and may have occaſion for ſome ſmall
"ſum before you can procure aſſiſtance
"elſewhere; ten guineas may be ſer-
"viceable to you in this interval; and
"I inſiſt on your accepting them from
"me: I hope that you will not have oc-
"caſion for more, before you may be
"able to hear from your friends in
"Europe."

The manner in which this preſent was offered, with the generoſity that prevented my making a requeſt, which my neceſſity muſt have obliged me to have done in ſuch circumſtances, had

a powerful effect on me. I endeavoured to ſtammer out my acknowledgements, but my ſentiment was too ſtrong for me. Lively emotions are but ill expreſſed by words. Mr. Grant embraced me; "'Tis a triſle not worth "mentioning (ſaid he); but you have "too much ſenſibility. You'll diſtreſs "me if you ſay any thing more about "it. Do like me: forget it immedi-"ately, as I have myſelf already done."

I was forced to keep the ſilence impoſed on me; but my heart and eyes were eloquent. A meſſenger from the ſhip came juſt then to ſummon me away, and I embraced and quitted my benefactor with the utmoſt tenderneſs and regret.

After fourteen day's ſail, with a captain the very reverſe of the former, and who, from the apparent goodneſs of his own nature, would have treated me as kindly as he did, though I had not been recommended to him by the governor,

governor, I arrived at New York, on the 3d of Auguſt.

I made myſelf known to ſome French people ſettled in that city, and who, touched with my misfortunes, tendered me every kind of aſſiſtance in their power. They introduced me to Monſieur Dupeyſtre, one of the richeſt merchants in the place, who generouſly offered to give me employment in my profeſſion.

But, upon hearing all the particulars of my ſtory, "It would not be pru-
"dent in you (ſaid he) to think of en-
"tering upon an occupation, ſo fatigu-
"ing and hazardous as yours, for ſome
"time yet; long quiet and repoſe
"muſt be neceſſary to your health, af-
"ter the ſevere labours and diſaſters
"you have ſo lately undergone; and,
"in order to give this nurſing its full
"effect, it will be neceſſary, beſides the
"help of medicine, to relieve your
"mind

"mind from all uneaſineſs, both with "regard to the preſent, and the future. "This charge I ſhall take upon me: from "this moment you are to conſider your- "ſelf as my gueſt, where you are extreme- "ly welcome to both bed and board. "When I find you are ſufficiently reco- "vered to engage in your occupation "again, I ſhall not oppoſe it, but help "you forward myſelf, by ſupplying "you with commiſſions, for my correſ- "pondents in Europe. This buſineſs, I "hope, is ſettled now to your ſatisfac- "tion," ſaid he, taking me by the hand, and, without waiting for an anſwer, called his ſervants before me, and gave them all neceſſary directions for my reception and accommodation.

I ſhall not attempt to deſcribe, becauſe I have not a power of ſpeech equal to the taſk, the ſtrong ſentiments of gratitude with which ſuch uncommon kindneſs and humanity affected

affected me. From the moment I was redeemed from the horrid desert, when I was within a few minutes of my dissolution, I met with none, excepting one, but persons of liberal minds, humane hearts, and generous souls. Does the world abound with such? I reflect on my misfortunes, now, as blessings, since they have been the means of purchasing me the acquaintance and friendship of so many excellent persons.

While I passed my days in perfect comfort and tranquility, under the roof of the hospitable Monsieur Dupeystre, I wrote to my family to acquaint them with my survival, after the variety of incredible difficulties and miseries I had sustained, during the space of eighty-one days: it was this letter that you had seen, and which being only a summary account of my misfortunes, did not sufficiently satisfy your friendly and anxious curiosity about me. I

ſent my letters by a veſſel that was going to London, from whence they might be put into the poſt-office, for France; but, not knowing how long I ſhould remain there, I deſired no anſwers till I could aſcertain my future deſtination, and be ſure of my addreſs.

Monſieur Dupeyſtre kept me with him till the February following, and then gave me charge of a cargo for Nantes. I took leave of him on the 6th of that month, and arrived ſafely at port here on the 27th. My commiſſion was addreſſed to Monſieur Walch, whom I found as ſenſible to the impreſſions of my ſufferings as his correſpondent had been.

From hence I wrote again to my friends, from whom I have received anſwers; and, among them, your letter, preſſing me to ſend you a minute and circumſtantial detail of my Adventures, during

during that extraordinary period. I could refuſe nothing to your friendſhip, and have accordingly employed what leiſure my avocations would permit, to recite in this narrative, the whole ſeries of facts, in their regular ſucceſſion of events.

I doubt not but that this ſad relation will affect you much, and make you often tremble at the difficulties and miſeries of your friend. May the diſpatch with which I have acquitted myſelf of your requeſt, convince you more and more of the attachment I have vowed to you, for life, and challenge an equal return of affection on your part, alſo.

Adieu,

PIERRE VIAUD.

THE

CERTIFICATE,

GIVEN BY

Mr. SWETTENHAM to Monſieur VIAUD.

I, The undernamed George Swettenham, lieutenant of the ninth regiment of foot, in the ſervice of his Britannic Majeſty, and commander of the fort St. Mark, in the Apalachian mountains, do hereby certify, that on the information of a ſavage, who had reported his having met with a dead body, on a ſtrand about forty miles from hence; and, having ſtrong reaſons to think a ſhip had been wrecked on that coaſt, which I feared was one that I had expected, for ſome time before, and had received no account of, I detached four ſol-

T diers,

diers, with my interpreter, under the command of Mr. Wright, enſign in the ſame corps, to viſit that coaſt, and ſuccour all thoſe that he might meet with in any diſtreſs.

Mr. Wright, on his return, preſented the bearer, Le Sieur Viaud, and a woman of the ſame nation, to me, whom he had found on a deſart coaſt, in the moſt deplorable ſituation, almoſt famiſhed with hunger, having nothing to ſubſiſt on but a few oyſters, and ſome fragments of a negro, that they had been reduced to the neceſſity of ſlaying for food.

Le Sieur Viaud informs me, that he is a ſea-captain, and an officer in the Blues, in the ſervice of the French King; that a ſavage he had met with, and who undertook to conduct him to St. Mark, had robbed him of what effects he hap-

pened to have ſaved from a ſhipwreck; and fled away, during the night, in his canoe, leaving him and ſome other companions on a deſart iſland.

Mr. Wright, alſo, preſented to me a young man, ſon to the woman abovementioned, whom he had found in another deſart iſle, in a more deſperate condition than the former perſons, as it was impoſſible he could have exiſted an hour longer, without his aſſiſtance, as he had neither food, nor ſenſe or motion left, when he found him.

The ſhocking ſituation they were all three in, upon his firſt meeting with them, their extreme weakneſs, and ſome particulars I have ſince been informed of, from ſome ſavages, ſufficiently prove that the ſtory told me by Le Sieur Viaud, of his having been pillaged and betrayed, in the manner aforeſaid, is true.

On

On the credit of which, I give this certificate to the ſaid Sieur Viaud, who means to ſet out for St. Auguſtine, by the firſt opportunity, and to go from thence into ſome of the French colonies.

Fort St. Mark, May 12,
1766.

GEORGE SWETTENHAM.